The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

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The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, the 19th December, 1912, at 11.40 a.m. Present:—Mr. R. Craig (in the chair) His Lordship Bishop Collins, Hon. George McGrath, Rev. W. T. Graham, Messrs. E. W. Muirhead A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin, and the Secretary, Mr. John Barclay.

His Excellency the President, the Hon. Director of Agriculture, and four other members of the Board were in attendance at a special meeting of the Legislative Council, and could not be present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been published, were taken as read and confirmed.

The following matters arising out of the minutes were considered:—

(a) Secretary's *interim* report *re* distribution of seeds in West end, and for Instructoral arrangements there:

With regard to the distribution of seeds in the Western parishes, a grant of £150 was promptly made by the Government the day after the last meeting of the Board of Management.

Previously, knowing natives supplies of peas and beans were very short, and difficult to obtain in quantity, I had, immediately on reading the report of the loss caused to crops in the West end and Central districts, cabled to the United States for 100 bushels of Black Eye Peas and 50 bushels of Red Kidney Beans, for seed purposes. I also asked the Prison Farm authorities to hand me over any supplies of peas they had and I would replace them with imported seeds. This was done. Native peas and beans are preferable for planting, being surer growers as a rule. However, I tested all the imported seeds as they arrived and they germinated 95 o/o. I have them growing well.

I commenced despatching supplies on the 26th of November. To all those individuals who wrote or telegraphed me, I replied that supplies could only go through an Agricultural Instructor, a local Branch Society or a local Relief Committee, and where there was none of these at hand,

I suggested to districts to organize a Relief Committee at once. A good many places where there were no local Agricultural Societies will probably now see the usefulness of having such organizations ready to deal with any agricultural emergency that arise, as well, of course, as the ordinary routine of such societies.

I submit a list of those who have received consignments of seeds. The seeds sent out, consisting of peas and beans at 16/ a bushels and vegetable seeds have exhausted the grant, and I applied to the Government for an additional grant of £100, which has been made. I suggest keeping a considerable sum in reserve to supply seed corn in the spring. I do not expect to get supplies of seed corn before the end of February. I am importing further supplies of Black Eye Peas and Red Beans, and I am getting small supplies of native grown Cowpeas from St. Andrew and St. Thomas.—Jno. Barclay, Secretary.

The Secretary also reported that Mr. Palache, at the Governor's request, was doing special duty in the western parishes explaining the purpose of and organizing Loan Banks, in relation to the Agricultural Loan Societies Law; that Mr. Arnett was also doing special duty in the west end, organizing and supervising the instructural work there in view of the special form of cultivation after the storm; and also organizing and superintending the distribution of seeds.

Approved of.

(*b*) *Archbishop's Resignation.*

Letter dated December 2nd, from His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies to the Secretary.

I thank you for your letter of 29th November, No. 21697. I value the appreciation expressed by the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society of my services in connection with the Board.?

I willingly accede to the wish of the Board that my name should remain for the present on the list of members.

(*c*) *Duty on citrus fruit.*

The Secretary said this matter arose out a letter from Mr. A. E. Wigan, of Hartlands, which was presented at the previous meeting of the Board of Managoment, and deferred to the present meeting for discussion.

It was thought that the matter should be brought up at the half yearly meeting of the Society, so as to give on opportunity for more public discussion.

Rev. W. T. Graham said he would be prepared to move a resolution on the subject then.

Letters from C. S. O. were submitted :—

(*a*) *Small boys driving drays, etc.*

No. 14,605-15,706 9th December.

With reference to your letter No. 4073 dated the 29th October last, relative to the representations of the Jamaica Agricultural Society as to the dangerous practice of small boys being allowed to drive drays and other vehicles on the roads and to their suggestion that a Law might be instituted regulating the ages of the drivers of vehicles, I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the Agricultural Society that the Governor, after consulting his Privy Council, considers that there would hardly be sufficient justification for initiating special legislation in the direction suggested as the evil complained of is infrequent and small compared with the dangers arising from reckless or obstructive driving by adults.

The meeting disagreed with the decision of the Governor, it being felt that as it was necessary to license drays, it was just as necessary that draymen should be licensed. The meeting was of opinion that this was a proper subject to be discussed at the half-yearly general meeting and the Secretary was instructed to put it on the agenda for that meeting, together with the subject of gross overloading of drays, it being no uncommon thing to see a dray fully loaded with stuff yet having five or six persons perched on the top.

(*b*) *Horses Order of 1912.*

No. 14187 S. S. Circ 6, 11. 12. 30th November.

With reference to the letter from this office Nos. 7582 S. S. Circ. 20. 5. 12., dated the 3rd July last, I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a copy of an order which has been made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, postponing from the 1st January to the 1st April next the operation of Chapter 1 of the "Horse (Importation and Transit) Order of 1912.

The Secretary explained that the order was to the effect that the date on which Chapter I (Importation) of the Horses (Importation and Transit) Order of 1912 would come into operation had been altered to the 1st day of April 1913.

(*c*) *Cases of starvation in St. Elizabeth.*

14663-17512 10th December.

With reference to your letter No. 3865 dated the 18th October last, I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith for the information of your society a copy of a letter from the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth, together with copies of its enclosures, relative to Mr. J. B. Harrison's representations as to the conditions in the Nain district of St. Elizabeth, and to say that it appears that the representations made in this case by Mr. Harrison, as in another recent case by Mr. Miller, have been unreliable and misleading.—(Sgd). G. M. Wortley, Atg. Assistant Col. Secty.

Clerk Parochial Board to Colonial Secretary.

Black River, 26th November.

With reference to your letter, No. 12551-15299 of the 25th ultimo, forwarding copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, enclosing one from Mr. J. Harrison, stating that deaths from starvation have actually occurred in the Nain district, and also copy of a letter from Mr. Lynch, calling attention to the distress prevailing in the same district, I am directed by the Parochial Board to forward to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the attached copies of reports by the Inspector of Poor on the representations made by those gentlemen.—(Sgd.) BRAGANZA BOWEN, C.P.B.

Inspector of Poor to Clerk Parochial Board.

Prior to receiving your minute, I had been investigating the statements of Mr. Harrison, who very kindly supplied me with the following names as having died of starvation, viz., Maria Griffith, and Emma Lindsay (her child) William Chamberlain, Harry Forbes, Catherine Plummer.

I have carefully enquired into these cases, and now beg to report that I have been unable to obtain any statements of facts to corroborate those of Mr. Harrison's.

I find that Mr. Hendriks, the Asst. Inspector of Poor, has been a constant visitor to these districts, and I am of opinion that had the cases been as represented, the attention of Mr. Hendriks would have been called to them; besides this, Mr. Lynch, the Almoner, lives in the same district, and no application or representation was ever made to him.

I append herewith Mr. Hendriks' report, together with letters from *William Dixon* and *Rev. A. L. Bodfish* on the subject.—(Sgd.) Wm. Weller.

The statements attached supported the Inspector of Poor's letter.

(d) No. 14634-17186, 10th December, 1912.

With reference to your letter No. 444, dated the 15th ultimo and to previous correspondecce on the subject, I am directed by the Governor to transmit to you a copy of a report made by the Inspector of Poor for St. Elizabeth and Messrs. A. J. Hendriks and H. M. Messias, members of the Parochial Board, together with a copy of the letter which is being sent to the Board, relative to Mr. J. J. Miller's representations as to the distress existing in the Southfield district of the parish in consequence of the recent drought.

2. I am also to transmit a copy of the first page of Mr. Miller's letter of the 24th October to you and to request you to point out to him the discrepancy between his statements therein and those he made to the Board's Committee.

3. I am to request you also to be so good as to point out to Mr. Miller that from the Committee's report, it would appear that his description of the conditions due to the drought was exaggerated, even in respect of the period when he wrote you.—(Sgd.) Robert Johnstone.

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Committee's investigations failed to find proof of cases of death by starvation.

Letter from the Governor to the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth :—

No. 14635-17186. 10th December, 1912.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your Clerk's letter No. 601, dated 27th ultimo, submitting a copy of a report made by the Inspector of Poor and Messrs. A. J. Hendriks and H. M. Messias, members of your Board, stating the result of their investigations into Mr. J. J. Miller's representations as to conditions existing in the Southfield district of St. Elizabeth in consequence of the recent drought.

2. I am to convey the Governor's thanks to your Board for the report and to express His Excellency's appreciation of the prompt action taken by you on receiving the Colonial Secretary's telegram of the 8th ultimo.

3. I am to observe that His Excellency is unable to reconcile the statement made by Mr. Miller to your Board's Committee, viz:—"the information I gave in my letter was that some of the people have scarcely any food in their homes, but as to there being any cases of starvation as stated in the telegram, I know nothing about that," with the terms of his letter to the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, dated 24th October of which a copy has been sent to you.—(Sgd.) Robert Johnstone, Acting Colonial Secretary.

From Mr. J. J. Miller.

Mayfield School, Southfield P.O.,
October 24th, 1912.

The situation here with regard to scarcity of food is getting so serious that I feel bound to write to you. Since the turning down of nearly all relief works, the poor people here are having a terrible battle against death by starvation. The majority of these poor unfortunate people were looking towards the opening up of the proposed plots for cultivation, but now they stand alarmed on hearing the decision of the Board and do not know where else to look for help. Work on these plots would, indeed, employ particularly the weaker women and children who can find no way of earning a penny. We are now face to face with a most critical situation, and although we cannot publicly say that many have died from starvation, yet we can say that deaths had occurred in homes, and almost suddenly too, where there was not one morsel of food. I am giving facts from which logical inferences can be drawn. A young woman got a pint of corn. She made a meal of half a pint and planted the other half pint. The next day she could get nothing to save her life, death was before her—immediate death. She had to trace the holes she had planted and took out the grains one by one so as to prepare something to save her life. What Government would not be grieved at this? This would move the hardest heart much more one who is so sympathetic as His Excellency, who, I am certain, is doing all he can to reduce sufferings of this kind.—(Sgd.) J. J. MILLER.

Rev. W. T. Graham said these reports were from Inspectors of Poor and those connected with the Parochial Board. In spite of what was said he would stake his reputation on his statements with regard to the situation in St. Elizabeth. If there was an independent enquiry the figures, when published, would tell a sad tale of deaths from actual starvation. The speaker went on to tell of cases of starving children which had come under his notice. Paid investigators should be sent into the districts to look for the children who were starving. He moved that the Governor be asked to hold an independent enquiry into the condition of destitution in the drought area in connection with alleged deaths from starvation; and further, that statistics as to the death rate in the Letitz, Portsea, Top Hill, Southfield and Upper Pedro Plains districts from the 1st July to the 30th November last, as compared with the same period of the preceding year, be obtained for the information of the Society.

The Hon. George McGrath seconded.

It was agreed to ask for the statistics as to the comparative death rate, first.

(*e*) *Flood at Bog Hole.*

No. 14693-17446 of the 12th December, covering extract from a minute from the Secretary of the Board of Supervision on the subject of the damage caused by the flooding of the Cave River in the Boroughbridge district, as follows:—

In the Boroughbridge district which is mentioned in this correspondence, the damage was done chiefly by the Cave River which flooded large areas and washed away a considerable amount of excellent cultivations. Many of these people are in a position to borrow from the Loan Society.

Mr. Levy, the Agricultural Instructor, might do a good deal in the way of advising the people in these districts where they should avoid planting and to set about getting their cultivations restored with as little delay as possible.—(Sgd.) F. N. ISAACS, Secretary of the Board of Supervision.

The Secretary explained that the soil at Bog Hole was immensely fertile, being composed of silt brought down by the Cave River when in heavy flood, and the people took the risk in planting the lands there knowing that they had been flooded three times within the last ten years, and would be liable to flood at any time there were continuous heavy rains. With the returns they got from the land in good years the cultivators there ought to be in a position to provide against flood in an occasional year.

The letter was tabled.

(*f*) *Cotton Cultivation.*

No. 14993-17363. 17th December, 1912.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 29th ultimo, having reference to the question of cotton cultivation in the parish of St. Elizabeth, and to acquaint you, for the information of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, that the decision and arrangements reported in your letter have His Excellency's concurrence.

Revision of Rules. The Secretary presented a copy of the revised rules of the Society, which had been considered and prepared by a special committee.

It was agreed that the revised rules be printed and copies thereof, as well as copies of the old rules, be sent to members for consideration in time for the half-yearly general meeting.

Half-Yearly Meeting. It was decided that the next monthly meeting of the Board of Management be held on the 15th January at 3.30 p.m., and that the half-yearly general meeting be held the following day, January 16th, at 11.30 a.m., so that more time would be given to general discussions at the half-yearly meeting.

Prize Holdings Competition. The Secretary stated that the Instructors Committeee had recommended that because of the storm, the Prize Holdings Competition for this year in three parishes—St. Catherine, Trelawny and St. James might be abandoned as the holdings could not be in order for the competition. The judging in St. Thomas was half-way through when the storm came. Eastern St. Thomas was not yet done. Mr. Arnett was urgently required for the next three months in the western parishes doing special work; and the Instructors Committee considered the circumstance recommended that the competition St. Thomas should also be dropped.

If the Board approved he would notify the cultivators and refund their entry money. The time to fix competitions for next year was approaching, but as they would require a re-arrangement in the districts, the matter might be left over for two months in order that he could consult with the Instructors.

Agreed.

(b) The Secretary presented a scheme as adopted by the Instructors' Committee for the revision of points in the Holdings Competition.

Mr. Arnett, at the request of the meeting, explained that the object aimed at was to stimulate owners of holdings to adopt improved methods as regards trenching, drainage and pruning, etc. There would be 15 points given for such improved methods of agriculture.

This was adopted.

Resolutions from Branches. The Secretary presented resolutions from the Sav.-la-Mar and Hanover Branches asking that special arrangements be made for sending Instructors to those centres for supplies of seeds to be provided. This matter had, however, already received attention, for while the meeting of the Hanover Branch was in progress, and just as the resolution referred to had been passed, Mr. Arnett walked into the meeting room and announced that he had been sent through to help with the Agricultural situation and that the seeds required were already on the way.

Seeds. On the question of seeds, the Secretary announced that he had been advised that His Excellency had sanctioned a further grant of £100 for the purpose of providing seeds and plants for free distribution in the western end of the island where crops had been destroyed by the recent storm

The Secretary stated that this money had been provided to supply seeds specifically for the parishes in the west end; but he had received applications from districts in St. Mary and elsewhere for supplies. He wanted to know if he could use his discretion and send some of the seeds to other districts.

It was agreed that the Governor be asked first if the Secretary could send seeds to districts other than the stricken ones at the west end of the island, to a limited extent.

Shows. It was agreed that the request of the Frankfield Branch for the postponement of the Show from the 20th February to the 9th November next, be granted.

New Branch. The application of the Rural Hill (Portland) Sub-branch to be affiliated as a Branch, was granted.

Instructors. Reports and itineraries of Instructors were presented and referred to the Instructor' Committee.

It was proposed by Mr. Craig and agreed to that in order to give more time for the half-yearly meeting, the next meeting of the Board of Management be held on the afternoon before at 3.30 p.m.

New Members. The following new members were elected :—
G. A. Archer, Bound Brook Estate, Port Antonio ; M. Risden, Orange River, Chapelton.

The meeting adjourned until Wednesday, 15th January, 1913, at 3.30 p.m.

MANURES.

There are still men who laugh or sneer at, or ignore the idea of adding manure in any shape or form to their land. There are not so many as there were some years ago before the results from the Agricultural Society's operations begun to be felt, but there are thousands yet, and they are not all small settlers but many are men with large possessions. These latter happen to possess land of wonderful fertility, in seasonable climates, and they grow, in average years, good crops, not requiring to spend much money or effort on cultivation. And, getting fair results, they flatter themselves that they are clever planters. Many laughed ten years ago at the idea of deep drainage even on hillsides; but they have begun to drain, more and more. Many still laugh at the idea of growing Cowpeas and crops of like nature, for the benefit of their soil and crops. The dry weather which prevailed so long, even in some districts having usually plenty of rain, has made many of such planters now turn their ear to the idea of mulching. These tussles with Nature such as we are having, —too much rain, too much dry, soils not yielding so well, are doing good work. Things are not being left to chance so much. There is more attention paid to the kind of seed or plants to be planted, to the preparation of the soil, to its cultivation, and to the handling of the produce. But as far as appreciation of the need of the soil to be manured to make up for the tremendous amount of products we export annually, there is little comprehension of this. But we wish readers to reflect for a little on the following, Take an acre of any crop, say an acre of bananas, about 300 bunches averaging about 50 lbs. weight will be taken during every 15 months and shipped away, *i.e.* 15,000 lbs. Where has this weight come from. A large part of it is water, as bananas contain about 75 per cent of water, but the rest has come from the soil. And that has been going on for 20 years. But bananas are not deep feeders, and so take what they need from the topmost foot or so. While deep cultivation may keep them going for a few years as good as ever, manure is soon necessary. Deep rooted trees like Mangoes can get their wants supplied all the way down to 20 feet. Over 14 millions of bunches of bananas have been shipped from Jamaica each year lately, so we can see the amount of fertility that is taken away. And 15 millions of coconuts, 75 thousand hundredweights of coffee, 50 thousand hundredweights of cocoa. Sugar does not take away much from the soil, and sugar planters have mostly been wise "from time," saved their trash, penned their cattle, and some of them have grown Cowpeas; but at any rate they were always adding the trash and dung from the cattle to their fields. How many banana planters have been in the habit of penning their mules and cattle to add manure to their fields? But they will do it yet, just as they have started growing Cowpeas, Overlook Beans, Jerusalem Peas, &c. And they will also use fertilisers on these to give them a greater and deep growth.

Our local crops are sore on the soil, sweet potatoes especially, as all their feeding is done in the surface soil. But local crops are consumed here, and if only all the waste, the excreta, human as well as animal, were carefully saved and used as manure, there would not be the tremendous loss of fertility that has been taking place. But in spite of the great amount of stuff we have exported, there is still in some soils a great amount of fertility, especially the stiff soils, hard to work. This fertility is, as it were, locked up, and while manure would be of advantage, it would only be so if the soil was broken up fine ; it would be of no use putting a load of manure on the top of hard soil, stiff below. The virtue of it would mostly be washed out by the rain instead of being mixed with the soil. So hand in hand with manuring, there must be the breaking up of the soil, in order that the plant roots may be able to get the manure and use it.

IRISH POTATOES.

Sometimes seed potatoes when they are imported, have begun to sprout and are just ready to be planted. Care has to be taken in handling, that these sprouts are not broken, as the succeeding sprouts have not the same vitality. The first potatoes brought down for the winter crop being only a few weeks out of the ground, are not sprouted, and have to be laid out to start the eyes. This should be done in a warm place, not dark, but not in the full light. If, however, potatoes are exposed to sunshine and become green, they are good for planting but totally unfit to eat.

When we import for the spring planting, the potatoes being then four months out of the ground, sprout quickly with the heat. Those who order potatoes and then leave them lying at the railway or wharf around the coast, for a week or longer, and then complain about loss, have of course not realised that potatoes rot easily with heat and moist air. All the potatoes we import for seed are examined, selected, and repacked before being sent out, so we know they are all good when they leave here.

We imported fresh seed potatoes in the first week of January, and expect another lot in the middle of February. Those requiring seed to plant should write at once.

WEEDS.—It is a good thing that weeds grow or some lands would never get any tillage further than what was necessary to plantt he seeds.

But the weeds grow and necessitate hoeing, by which the caked surface soil gets broken up.

THE CULTIVATION AND CURING OF COFFEE.

Coffea Arabica.

By H. Q. Levy, Agricultural Instructor, 1912.

IV.

LONG AND SHORT TOPPED TREES (pruning).

When your trees arrive at the age of two years and six months, or three years, if the altitude of your cultivation lies between 1,500 and 2,000 feet, you have an important point to decide (*i.e.*) whether you will grow Long or Short Top Coffee. If your soil be very rich, and you possess either a humid or very cool climate, you may safely grow the latter, but if on the other hand, your atmosphere be dry and the soil none of the best, then take my advice and grow Long top. Above 2,000 feet, always adhere to topped coffee, and as opposite to this, if your cultivation lies below 1,500, never attempt to top them. Where soil and climatic conditions are favourable, I should always advise the topping of your trees, for if correctly cared and pruned, you get a heavier crop, better berries, and the reaping of the fruit becomes an easy matter. There should then be no breaking of the branches, and you reap the crop in half the time it takes to gather a like quantity from the taller trees.

The prevalent idea that if you top a coffee tree, the tap-root grows down into uncongenial soil, is an erroneous one. The function of the tap-root is only that of an anchor, and it helps to keep the tree in an upright position when it possesses a heavy top, or to prevent it from toppling over when struck by high winds, etc. It therefore stands to reason that the heavier the top, and the taller the tree, the longer will the tap-root be.

There are several reasons for the dying back of topped coffee trees, viz., uncongenial climate and soil, lack of drainage when grown on heavy and cold soils, lack of pruning, and last, too little shade when grown in exposed situations.

Both kinds of trees require pruning, but when topped, they require twice or thrice the amount of attention as when allowed to grow unchecked, and as the manner of pruning bears an important part to the productiveness and life of the tree, and is more difficult to achieve, I will deal with it first, afterwards explaining how Long top trees should be treated.

As I stated before, the tree should be ready for topping from the age of two years and six months to three years, but there can be no hard and fast rule laid down, as some trees take a much longer time to mature than others. Anyhow, you should observe that at the point where you desire to top the tree, the wood is ripe (*i.e.*) instead of the bark being "dead" green, it should have a brown appearance, and has hardened up somewhat.

The height at which to top varies according to the exposure and fertility of the soil, from two feet six inches, in very exposed situations, to four feet six inches when grown under favourable conditions. Use a sharp knife for topping, and when cutting off the top of the tree, do not sever it immediately above the last pair of lateral limbs, as is done in nine cases out of ten. At the first heavy bearing, the main stem will split, allowing the two branches to fall away from their horizontal position, and later will have to be removed altogether. The correct method is to cut the main stem close *above* the next pair of intervals, these two in turn to be cut back also close to the main stem, the cuts will soon heal over, and a "bump" will be formed, which will effectually prevent any splitting.

I do not favour topping above four feet six inches, and would rather advise you to top at four feet, as the pruning will be found easier, and you will then not be asking the tree to carry an excessive number of *Primaries*. These are the branches which grow out horizontally from the main stem, and a point in connection with these primaries, the cultivator should ever keep in mind, is that a Primary once destroyed, is for ever lost, for no fresh growth takes place at that point on the main stem, except it be an *upright* growth, this being called a *Gormandizer*. Therefore, when you are cleaning your fields, or picking your crop, do not break off or injure these primary branches. As will be explained, they are to be used as the *foundation* for the branches which are to carry your succeeding crops. The greatest culprits in the destruction of these very essential branches are the pickers, who after gathering the ripe berries from one side of the tree, are either too lazy or careless to move round to the other side of the tree, but will deliberately pull the opposite branches across in the direction in which they are standing, in a number of instances breaking off or injuring the branches in such a way that a considerable quantty of the bearing surface is irretrievably lost. Therefore remember that every primary destroyed means a loss of money, for the entire life of the tree.

The first crop is produced on the Primary Branches, and during the production of this crop or immediately after, side shoots are sent out on these branches at the joints, or bearing bracts ; they generally come out in pairs, immediately opposite to one another. These growths are called *Secondary* branches. In turn, others are formed along these, also in pairs, and growing nearly horizontal, these are called *Tertiaries*, and along with the Secondaries, comprise the bearing wood of the tree.

Now the productiveness, and in fact the very life of the tree, depends on the manner of pruning the secondaries and tertiaries and to understand the methods to be adopted, it is well to state before going on, to explain the system, that the coffee tree produces its crop only on new wood, so the endeavour of the cultivaor should be to keep the tree well supplied with bearing wood *without overcrowding*. In the case of topped trees, your efforts must be con-

fined (as far as pruning goes) to the preservation of the main stem (a single one in all cases) the primaries growing from it, and the production of *new* secondaries and tertiaries will go on reproducing themselves indefinitely, so long as the primary is in good and healthy condition, and the tree is pruned so as to allow sufficient light and air to reach them, especially those that spring from the lower branches.

To become expert and successful at pruning coffee, you should keep in mind certain rules and operations which *must* be followed. First, it should be your aim to keep a funnel-shaped space down the whole length of the main stem, free from all growth except the branches comprising the primaries.

Soon after topping, the tree will send out shoots or gormandizers at the base of the higher primaries, these are robber shoots, and should only be retained when growing long top. In the case of topped trees, they must be removed as soon as they make their appearance, and before the wood has had an opportunity of hardening. Next, any secondary branches which grow nearer than eight inches from the main stem, must be removed, also any that have a tendency to grow across the funnel-shaped space adjacent to the main stem, as well as the ones which grow in an upright direction instead of horizontally, for there is a great tendency for them to do this. Next, starting from the one nearest the main stem, remove every opposite secondary, leaving only one at each joint, but on opposite sides of the primary, until you get right out to the tip of the branch. In the same way, treat the tertiaries, leaving a space free of branches of about six inches from their junction with the secondaries, after that leave alternate shoots, as explained before.

Sometimes a "bunch" of shoots will start from one of the joints. These are commonly called "Crow's nests," and should be pruned off with the exception of one. You should also see that the one left conforms to the correct direction, and does not overlap other secondaries or tertiaries. If a topped coffee tree be pruned in this way, you will find that all the branches will develop evenly, and each will carry a good crop of berries, the tree on the whole producing more than when left unpruned.

Some cultivators have the mistaken idea that topping consists of only preventing the tree from making upward growth, and consequently allow all the secondaries and tertiaries to grow without restraint, the result being what is called an "umbrella tree," a most unprofitable kind, giving its crop only on the top branches, the lower ones gradually dying back for want of light and air. This kind of tree can never be a profitable one to grow, as you will find the thick mass of branches which intertwine each other towards the top, take from the soil quite as much plant food as the correctly pruned tree, but on the other hand does not produce anything like the same crop, or is the quality of the produce so good.

To briefly sum up the substance of the foregoing, which has taken me so much space to explain, and also to emphasise some of the principal points, I will reiterate them in a curtailed form as below :—

Only a single main stem should be retained.

Top at about four feet six inches in height, in very windy situations as low as two feet six inches may be practised with advantage.

Preserve the *Primaries* : these once destroyed never grow again.

Permanently retain a funnel-shaped space adjacent to the main stem, wide at the top and gradually uarrowing towards the root of the tree, starting at about sixteen inches in diameter at the top.

Leave only alternate branches on the *Primaries*, *Secondaries* and *Tertiaries*.

Prune when the growths are young, less labour is then required, and most of it can be done by rubbing off with the fingers.

(To be continued.)

THE CULT OF THE COCONUT.

ARTICLE VII.

BUD ROT.

In the last article, a fungoid disease which attacks the roots and stems was dealt with. The most dreaded and well recognised of diseases that attack the coconut is the subject of this article.

Bud Rot.—It must be sttated at once that even now, in spite of very close and scientific investigation by numerous learned professors, such as Prof. Johnstone in Cuba, Prof. Earle, T. Petch in Ceylon, and the Government Micologist in Trinidad, etc., no absolutely definite conclusion has been reached as to the exact means by which a coconut becomes infected with this dreaded disease. Investigations seem, however, to have now reached the point where there is fairly close agreement that the actual cause of the disease is of a bacterial origin. It has, within the last year or so, been proved beyond a doubt, that it is possible to inoculate a coconut with the cultures from a diseased tree, both by saturation and injection, and to cause very quickly the death of a healthy tree. These experiments were carried to a conclusive end in Trinidad. In one case a tree was treated by boring a hole with an augur into the tissues and injecting a solution from a diseased tree ; the hole was then plugged up, and death resulted in a few months from distinct Bud Rot.

In the other case the heart of a healthy tree was saturated with a solution from a dying tree, and death ensued within five months.

These experiments point to more than one important thing. First, that one tree can infect another ; second, that death by Bud Rot may be extremely rapid ; third, that it is not necessary for a

tree to be injured or wounded to be receptive to the germs of Bud Rot.

The presence of Bud Rot in coconuts has been long known in Jamaica, but has not, however, assumed the proportion that it has done in many other countries. A couple of years ago, owing to considerable agitation which pointed to the increased presence of this disease in trees, it became necessary to provide by Law for the extermination of the dead and dying trees. In Portland and St. Thomas, over 1,200 trees were condemned and burnt, or treated through the action of this Law, and in other parishes, such as St. Mary, Hanover, and Westmoreland much was done to reduce the risk of infection by active remedial measures.

The result of these measures has certainly put a very great check on the spread of this disease, and trees are by no means so commonly found attacked as was the case two years ago.

With regard to the nature of this disease in its most active form, the symptoms seem to be pretty well recognised, and easily recognisable at an early stage by an observant planter. It differs entirely from the attacks of the fungoid root or stem disease, in that there is no appearance of gummy exudation or stain on the stem of the coconut. The heart is alone affected, though the heart in root disease is also in the end attacked by a rot, but not before the disease is plainly recognised by the appearance of the stem.

In its most active form, therefore, the first symptom to be looked for in a tree attacked by Bud Rot is the gradual shortening of the centre heart leaf. Each leaf as it appears, comes forth shorter than the last, until the whole crown, instead of spreading gracefully, has the appearance of being bunched up.

In some cases this is a somewhat lengthy process, and a good time elapses before actual rot is observable. In others, however, very quickly the heart leaves begin to show signs of decay, and the whole heart begins to bend over to one side, eventually dropping right out of the tree. In some cases this happens before the whole heart is completely decayed and some leaves are still green; in others the rotting is complete.

The heart of such a tree possesses a distinctive and highly obnoxious smell, which once smelt, is recognizable for its especial offensiveness.

A coconut tree may be attacked at any age by this disease, but observations in Jamaica have shewn that the form of the disease does not, as a rule, appear in trees that are thoroughly ripe, and over the age of 25 or 30 years, the most common time being from 10 to 15 years of the tree's growth.

There is, however, good reason to believe that the same bacteria which causes the rapid decay, works in another manner on trees of a riper and therefore hardier age.

It has been proved apparently by Prof. Johnstone that a tree may be attacked not only in the actual heart, but round the basis of the butts of the outer leaves also. This attack does not appear

to kill the tree so rapidly, but by a process of gradual dwindling away or extermination of the tree. There are large numbers of such trees in some parts of Jamaica, and it is possible that these trees are also affected by a form of the real Bud Rot bacteria. Further investigation is needed on this point. These trees are commonly called "pencil points" from the peculiar shape of the stem after death.

It has been shown that in the more active form the disease starts from a point somewhere below the opening of the heart leaves, and the actual point of life in the embryo bud. Trees from which the heart has been carefully excised, has nearly always thrown out an entirely fresh heart if care has been taken to go right below the diseased tissues. In one ease a tree has been shewn to completely recover under such treatment, joined with regular applications of Bordeaux Mixture ; many others have partially recovered, and finally gone back and died, probably because the tools used were not disinfected between each cut made.

Many cases of reputed recovery by applications of salt and soap, etc., in the heart, have been reported. It is, however, much more than probable that such trees were not attacked by Bud Rot at all, but by heart-boring beetles.

It may be observed here, also, that the disease is reported also to enter the tree through the blossoms. There is, however, not the shadow of a doubt but that this disease spreads, and spreads rapidly unless dealt wtth promptly.

It behoves planters, therefore, to be especially observant and vigilant in watching for the first symptoms of this disease. and to act promptly where found.

It is the duty of all growers, where such trees are observed, either to promptly destroy, by cutting down and burning the heart and crown thoroughly. or if any doubt is felt, to report such attack to the Government Inspectors appointed under the Contagious Disease of Plants Law. Too much time is often wasted in vain hopes that the trees may recover of themselves or by some simple measure, frequently ending in the planter losing several trees instead of one. The only effective check to the disease so far found, is to destroy and burn ; above all, burn. Under such treament, the disease is likely to be only sporadic, if delay is allowed, it can quickly become epidemic. Care must be also taken to disinfect all the tools used in his work, as advised in a former article, by fire or a solution of this carbolic.

There is no reason why this disease should become in any way dangerous in Jamaica, if precautions as above are taken, and if the walks are constantly kept under observation, and unthrifty trees singed with fire in the heart or sprayed with the Bordeaux Mixture.

Bleeding Stem Disease.—This is a fungoid attack of the stem not at all common in Jamaica, but found sometimes. A dark, discoloured spot is observed on the trunk, which sometimes exudes a soft jelly-like matter, on touching the spot the stem is found that the

soft, and on opening the point of attack, often it is found on the whole core of the tree, reaching some way up, and down is rotten and decayed.

A tree attacked thus will live for years before death, and still bear nuts. The method of treatment is to carefully cut out all the decayed portion with a chisel or gauge, and tar well with hot tar. A cure is then nearly certain.

Lightning.—Many trees are lost by lightniag every year, especially the older ones. If there is any doubt as to what is wrong with the tree, it is nearly always possible to diagnose lightning by the appearance of numberless little spots of brown stain, quite unlike attacks of root disease, all over the surface of the tree's trunk from top to bottom.

This article closes the enumeration of the most prominent diseases, enemies and pests found affecting coconuts in Jamaica. There are, it is true, any number of different shades of slight illnesses observable in coconuts which are directiy due to some cultural faults, such as want of drainage, poverty of soil or unsuitable sites. These, however, are capable of treatment by methods of cultivation, well understood by most planters, though not always adopted in the case of our poor friend "Cocos Nucifera."—Leo. A. Wates, Agricultural Instructor.

HINTS ON THE TREATMENT OF STORM DAMAGED FRUIT TREES.

We asked some of our Instructors to write us some notes on what treatment should be adopted for trees damaged by the storm. We knew these hints would be too late when published to help cultivators much, but we desired to see what the Instructors were advising, and, of course, such advice had already been given personally to cultivators by the Instructors, both on visits to their holdings and at public meetings, a much better way than reading what to do. It is well, however, that some of these hints be put on record, especially as regards cocoa trees. While we hepe there will be no more storms, still we are always liable to get them, and these hints may then be useful.—Ed.

With pleasure I give the benefit of my experience, gained after the 1903 hurricane, as well as after other smaller storms, as to the treatment of fruit trees damaged by the recent storm, special reference being made to the promising cocoa industry.

It is quite likely that the trees have not only been blown down, but are covered over by fallen bananas and branches of larger fruit and other trees. These obstacles should be at once removed carefully. The bananas should be cut up into small bits, so that they may readily return to the soil, giving the field a tidier appearance, and returning as early as possible the plant foods which did not reach the stage of making fruit. Whenever branches have been torn from cocoa and other valuable trees, the places should be

smoothed over by a sharp tool. A good sharp cutlass may be used on the larger trees, and a sharp knife on the smaller, and these places should then be covered over with tar to prevent water from soaking in, and insects and vegetable pests from entering. The smoothing off enables the tree to repair the broken part more readily.

A rapid growth of weeds and young banana suckers will now take place in the exposed fields. Care should be taken to prune out the suckers, leaving only one or two of the best, to be treated for the 1914 spring crop, and the weeds must be kept down and not allowed to weaken these. If the field is well cultivated, "peepers" that appear in December and January will be quite in good time, as these having the same privileges of soil, air and light, will grow up as rapidly as if they had been bananas newly planted. A banana once cut back is not likely to give a good bunch, hence it will be better to keep a new "peeper" for your 1914 crop, and destroy the ones you had made selection of before the storm, wherever these have been broken.

I shall now confine myself to the treatment of damaged cocoa trees, although much will be applicable to other fruit trees, especially in the case of treating young trees. I shall deal with the trees under two heads.

I. Cocoa trees which are not bearing and can be easily handled.—Get a stake of convenient length. Stick this firmly into the ground near to the base of the plant. Raise the plant carefully and tie on to the stake firmly, yet not so tightly as to injure the bark or prevent further growth of the plant. If the tree is not carefully raised up and happens to balance over to the side opposite to that on which it had been lying, the roots not now seriously injured may all be broken, and the plant destroyed entirely, For the same reason, the stake must be firm, and the bark or withe ("wiswis") be strong, so as not to admit of the tree being easily blown over again. These young trees will likely have an open space around the base ("the root"). Fill this with loose earth to the level of the surrounding earth. In no case attempt to mould up.

II. Large cocoa trees.—Get a short stake with an open crutch at the top. Drive firmly into the ground, at a convenient distance up where the trunk of the tree lies. Then gently raise the tree and rest the trunk into the crutch. Thus the branches and leaves will for the most part be lifted off the ground. In this position the tree will either continue giving, or soon begin giving fruit, and the crops will soon be as good again as they had been before. In this position, however, the trees are both unsightly and cumbrous, and to remedy this, encourage a young shoot or "gormandiser" to grow as near to the base of the tree as possible. Keep all other stools pruned off as they appear. In about 18 months this new stem will begin to bear fruit, and then the old tree can be conveniently and profitably cut away.

If these cocoa fields are not looking as promising as may be ex-

pected, by July of next year, give a careful forking through, and a dusting with lime.

In conclusion, I may say, for the benefit of those who have never before passed through similar experiences, don't get over-troubled about your cocoa trees. The cocoa will prove itself to you a very hardy plant if only given the treatment recommended above, and you will be surprised to see how soon trees of which you have now little hope, will once more begin giving bountiful crops. One result of the disaster will, I am sure, be to considerably increase the planting of this valuable tree.—SAML. A. SCHLEIFER, Agricultural Instructor for Clarendon.

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* *

The recent hurricane which devastated the west end of this island has badly crippled the cocoa growers. I offer herein advice *to the growers in the parishes in my district.*

1. In upper Westmoreland, especially in the districts of Hopewell, Lamb's River, York, Bethel Town, and Marchmant, where the cocoa industry was of considerable importance, the planters *must set to work at* once and *lift* the young trees that have been blown down, or have listed, into a vertical position, and prop them up with a forked stick. Some dry soil should be put into the hole caused by the shaking of the tree. This should not be heaped around the "collar" of the tree, as it will work harm. Broken limbs should be cut off with a sharp knife, a clean, single cut being made where the limb starts from the stem, and tar applied with a brush to the wound.

2. *In the case of trees being broken by falling trees, but having* the main stem standing, (and there are many such all over the two parishes) a gormandizer should be encouraged to grow as near the earth as possible, and when it branches off, the old stem should be sawn off with a slanting cut, and tar applied. *If* a gormandiser be selected high up, the tree will be disposed to send up many others from below, but when the selected one comes from as low as possible, the sap will be directed into it, and no serious rivals will start above it.

3. The large Criollo trees of Upper Hanover that are standing, but badly broken in the branches, should be carefully pruned.

Look at the trees well, and decide which branches can be kept. The others should be cut off and treated as described above.

4. But many trees will have to be taken up altogether, and where this is necessary, application should at once be made to Mr. A. H. Hoare, Instructor in charge of the Montpelier Nursery for new plants in pots to replace the old ones.

It is hoped that many people will take this opportunity of extending their cocoa plantations and get as many plants from the nursery as they can.

Settlers are entitled to 250 plants annually, and large planters can purchase plants at 15/ per 1,000 plants.—R. C. SOMMERVILLE, Agricultural Instructor for Hanover and Westmoreland.

COST OF COLLECTING RUBBER IN JAMAICA.

Report on Tapping Castilloa Rubber Trees in Portland with Results.

October, 1912.

(By L. A. Wates, Agricultural Instructor.)

1. The further tapping of the Castilloa Rubber trees in Portland under my observation, was suggested by the Secretary, Mr. Barclay to me in the latter part of September.

2. It was especially desired that some statistics should be forthcoming as to the actual cost of reaping the latex, as well as the statistics as to continued yield of these trees.

3. I am able to report having tapped 60 trees during October having these conditions carefully in mind.

4. It is to be borne in mind that all these trees have been tapped 5 times during the last two years and many of them 6 or 7 times, some 10 times.

5. Having therefore in mind that the facts desired were particularly the cost of tapping and obtaining the latex, I was careful to do this work as if under plantation conditions, viz., under the supposition that a labourer would be sent out into the field to obtain rubber at so much per lb. and would work a regular day of 9 hours a day at such a rate as a man working task work would proceed.

6. The time taken therefore to tap each of these 60 trees, was carefully recorded along with the amount of wet latex obtained and the amount of dry rubber, the weight of scrap rubber afterwards picked from each tree being also recorded and the time taken to obtain same.

7. I have however in considering the results taken into account the fact that no record has been taken of the time taken to proceed from tree to tree. This owing to the scattered position of the trees available was not possible and would not give a reliable record in reference to a regularly planted cultivation.

In order to meet this difficulty however, it is here supposed that 2 hours in each day are allowed for moving from tree to tree.

8. The record of fine rubber without scrap shows almost the same result as that recorded in my last statistics, viz., a little over 3 ozs. per tree. With the scrap collected however, this mounts up to 4 5-12 ozs. per tree.

9. In regard to the actual work of tapping and obtaining the latex, I did this entirely myself, having however, on two occasions a little boy to hand each tool as reqnired. This is an immense saving of time,

10. The 60 trees therefore (as recorded in full detail below) gave a yield of 481 11-12 ozs. of latex, equal to 189 17-20 ozs. dry rubber, to be added to this is 75¼ ozs. of scrap making a total of 265 1-10 ozs. of dry rubber or 16 lbs. 9 1-10 ozs.

The actual time taken to collect the latex was 944 mins. or 15¾ hours, this supposing a 9 hours day gives a return of 7½ lbs. of dry rubber for a man and a small boy.

The scrap was obtained in 6 hours and would therefore give a return of 7 lbs. (dry) per day for one man.

In considering results however, I have as aforesaid allowed 2 hours in each 9 hours for walking from tree to tree which would reduce the amount obtainable per man and boy to 6 lbs. of dry rubber per day.

11. Figuring therefore that a man at 2/ and a boy at 6d. per day could collect 6 lbs. dry rubber, the cost of collection would amount to 5d per lb. The cost of collecting the scrap however would be a little less.

12. In regards the method of collection, I have used the Thompson tool and a collecting pan at the bottom of the central grove. In order however to collect quickly and cleanly the latex that does not run, I have rejected the brush and the spoon and now use a small tin like a Baking Powder tin, bent at one point of the circumference to the exact shape of the groove cut by the knife. This is quick and clean and does not require constant emptying into a larger vessel.

13. I would say that I am convinced that these results would be much better if I had the use of trees that had been originally laid out properly or that had not been tapped.

All these trees had been originally tapped at the wrong angle and therefore it is now impossible to get such an angle as will cause the major portion of the latex to run quickly off the tree. In a properly laid out field this would I am certain mean a considerable reduction in my figures.

14. I am more than ever satisfied that the proper time to tap is from daylight to say 10 a.m. and possibly from 4 p.m. to dark.

15. In my opinion, Castilloa trees should only be tapped twice a year here. The man tapping should be provided with a small step-ladder or a tressel 4 feet high. This would give a reach of 12 feet of trunk.

The tree surface could then be laid out at distance of 3 feet between the cuts, herring-bone system, giving 4 double or V cuts on each side of the tree. An angle of about 25 degrees to 30 degrees is suitable, anything more is useless.

16. Figuring therefore on these results obtained and at twice a year, the following might be a reasonable estimate of return for an acre, say the trees planted 15 feet apart 193 to the acre.

193 trees should yield at a minimum 106 lbs. rubber per annum, which at 5d. per lb. would cost £2 4s. 2d. to collect. At 2s. per lb. the rubber would fetch £10 12s. leaving £8 8s. 2d. per acre to cover other expenses and profit.

This estimate appears to me extremely reasonable and severely on the safe side.

17. It should be borne in mind that none of these trees are culti-

vated and I have no opportunity of testing trees under such conditions.

18. Attached hereto is a full detailed account of the results obtained this month.

(Sgd.) LEO. WATES,

Long Bay P.O. Nov. 1, 1912.

(Full statistics of each day's tapping and time taken are given but we cannot publish them for want of space.)—ED.

EDITORIAL NOTES—The following should be noted :—

1. The Castilloa trees tapped were some of those referred to in previous articles by Mr. Wates. Most are on poor soil—or such as would be considered poor soil in Jamaica, second rate soils where we should not grow bananas or coconuts.

2. These trees have never been cultivated ; some are those left in an old nursery, standing close together, with other trees among them or close to them.

3. The trees have been previously the subject of experimental tappers, some were cutlass gashed, so that they did not present an easy or quick medium of getting latex.

4. They have all been tapped many times before during the past two years and had just passed through six months of drought.

5. Mr. Wates only tapped as high as he could reach ; in Tobago tappers use ladders and tap as high as the trunk goes.

6. Mr. Wates tapped during the day, while it is an axiom of rubber tapping that the trees yield latex best in the cool of the morning and late afternoon.

7. There is therefore not one favourable circumstance : these Castilloa trees have stood a severe test in every way.

8. The average return of 4 5-12 oz. per tree again with a similar return already given from 5 to 10 times during the two years before, must be considered very good.

9. The return of the rubber is put at 2/ per lb. to allow for a fall in price. The present market price is not less than 4. per lb.

DRESSING PRUNING CUTS.

Reading in a recent JOURNAL a few notes on the importance of carefully tarring wounds made on trees in pruning ; I beg to add my share. Some of the tars procured are thinner than others i.e. not having the same density or "body" and in such instances Planters would find it helpful to use a little dry lime or cement to thicken it according to the quantity required for use at the time. Either of these serve the purpose admirably.—(Sgd.) H. C. THOMAS, Bath.

(Good idea !—Ed.)

COCOA.

Treatment of Trees After the Storm.

Young plants up to two feet high which have been suddenly exposed to wind and sun by the destruction of their shade crops, bananas, cocoes, etc., should be shaded at once by any bush available.

If the trees have been shaken and twisted about (wrung) by the storm until the soil has left a hole round the stem, the earth should be teased around them and the holes filled up at once. Fresh shade crops to cover the ground quickly must be planted, Cocoes, Cow Peas, Black Eye Peas, Red Beans, and Overlook Beans being the best for this purpose. If the Cocoa plants whether small or large are badly wrung and are shaky in the roots they must be propped (cotched) with sticks and tied up, care being taken to use soft trash for tying, not to loose the part.

Carefully cut off all broken limbs whether large or small, taking care to cut the damaged parts off very clean and smooth. Carefully tar over the surface of all cuts to keep out water ; mulch the roots of all cocoa trees with any material available ; a good plan is to cut banana trunks into short lengths, split them, and lay them flai side down around the roots of young cocoa trees. Cocoa trees quickly recover from the effects of a storm if the foregoing hints are carried out, but if they are left with broken branches and wounds undressed where the limbs have been torn off they become diseased from which they never recover unless treated at great expense later on- This is a splendid example of a stitch in time saving nine.

W. Cradwick, Highgate P.O.

LOAN BANKS.

At the time of publishing the December Journal, the matter of the Government furnishing loans to planters who have suffered much loss by the storm, some indeed in the west end, their all except their land, was under consideration. It has since been decided on, that this will be done to small settlers who are freeholders, through local Loan Banks. Large planters will be able to borrow direct from the Government. As it obviously requires some kind of organization to deal with loans on a wide scale to small settlers, and, plainly, organizations whose managers will be closely in touch with those borrowing, intimately acquainted with them and their circumstances will be most useful, it has been decided to use the existing organizations of local Loan Banks established mostly by the members of our local Branch Societies, yet distinct from these, and where these do not at present exist, to establish them, get them organized with the greatest possible expedition. And to do this, the Government in a comprehensive and practical way, a way well calculated to meet an emergency like the present circumstances of

planters, (and be ready to meet any future emergency of a similar nature) a simple yet most efficient way it seems to us if *properly worked*, proposed to amend the recently passed Agricultural Loan Societies Law (published in the JOURNAL for August page 435) so that capital furnished by members of the Bank may be dispensed with at first. At a special meeting of the Legislative Council held in the middle of December, a fresh Law entitled "The Agricultural Societies (Special Loans) Law," was passed.

Loan Banks, without Government aid, require the members to take shares, say of £5 each, and if there are 50 members that is a capital of £250. All the members would not require loans at one time of course, or if they all did want them the loans are granted in priority of time of lodging of application and if funds are insufficient for all, small loans have priority over large loans.

So from the £250 loans to help members in need may be given out. One man may require £5 to buy a heifer, another £20 te buy a shaft mule, another £8 to plant an acre of bananas, another £20 to help build a house. This system, entirely one of local co-operation, the best system in theory and the most independent and admirable, is a very slow one where small land owners are mostly poor and conservative, slow to understand and adopt ideas and projects new to them. The Loan Banks Law passed last May was an endeavour to get such Banks in general operation sooner than if districts were left to themselves, in view of need for assistance to cultivators being necessary, such as arose in St. Mary and Portland after the hurricane of 1903 and arose again from the effects of drought this year. We then considered it a far-sighted move, yet there were many people who criticised it adversely.

We have always since the hurricane of 1903 kept steadily in view the probability of a repetition of what happened then and shaped our policy accordingly. Under the Agricultural Loan Societies Law referred to (the Law passed in May last) the Government could advance a local Loan Bank, duly organized, up to two-thirds of its share capital without the shares being actually paid up in cash by members. In this way banks could have been easily and quickly established.

The Government and Legislative Council, however, under these new circumstances that have arisen, the widespread need for assistanee, amended that Law, and so long as local Loan Banks are organized, will be able to make loans to freeholders (and under certain conditions to tenants of lands), who must first become members of the local bank, and make their repayments, which will be spread over two years or can be paid in a lump sum at the end of two years, into the local bank. When the shares are paid the total amount will be the capital of the bank and be available for future loans in the ordinary way of Loan Banks independent of Government aid. The interest charged by the Government to the Bank will be 4 per cent; the interest charged by the local Bank to borrowers will be 6 per cent; the difference being required for the working expenses of the local bank, with any balance going to a reserve fund.

27 MAY 1935

The amended Law is, shortly.—

1. That Loans will only be given through an Agricultural Loan Bank which must be organized, and only members can borrow from it.

2. That the local Loan Bank can borrow from the Government up to twenty times its share capital i.e. if members take shares up to £100 the bank could borrow if need be £2000 on that capital.

3. That each borrower must take shares equal to one twentieth of his proposed loan i. e. a man wanting a loan of £100 would require to take shares to the value of £5. A man borrowing £20 would require to hold at least one share. Banks may make their shares £5, but not less than £1.

4. That these shares do not reguire to be paid cash down, but can be paid at the rate of 2 per share per month. A man with a £5 share would thus be called upon to pay 2s. per month until his £5 was paid up. Of course those who can pay up at once can do so.

5. Security in value must be given for the loan borrowed. A man borrowing £20 would give his land crops in security up to that value.

6. No man can borrow more than he has value in security for. The total amount that may be borrowed by one person is £200.

7. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent or 1/2 2-5 per £1 per annum must be paid on the amount borrowed.

8. That two years is given for repayment of the loan.

The whole organization of the loan banks is separate and distinct from the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and is placed under a new Board called the Agricultural Loan Societies Board the chairman of which is C. C. Anderson, Esq., Kingston. Mr. Anderson is the Deputy Island Treasurer, and was Secretary of the Earthquake Assistance Committee which dispensed loans, and so is a very experienced officer.

The Agricultural Loan Societies Board is composed of the Hon. Robt. Johnstone, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Hon. R. P. Simmonds, M. L. C. for St. Mary, Hon. H. I. C. Brown, Assistant Attorney General, with C. C. Anderson, Chairman, and C. J. Hay, Esq., as Secretary.

Note :—Mr. J. T. Palache, Agricultural Instructor for Central and North Manchester and St. Elizabeth has been specially appointed by His Excellency the Governor to organize and see to the registration of these Banks and he is ready and willing to afford all infor-

mation on the subject to all parties interested. He has been authorised by the Agricultural Society to be absent from his usual duties as instructor for a time. His address is J. T. Palache, Manderille.

... ...

We trust the many who are writing us on this subject, and who have not had this land explained already from correspondence, or at meetings will be able to understand the subject from the above—Ed.

LOAN BANKS REGISTERED.

The following are the names and members in the Register Office at Spanish Town, of Banks registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law, 1902.

Numbers one and nine are the only two that are not Agricultural Loan Banks. About six banks have been formed in St. Mary and Portland but have not yet been registered.

Jan. 15, 1913.

No.	Name of Society.	Place of Business.	Name and Address of Secretary or Manager.
1	x	x	x
2	The Brown's Town Co-operative People's Bank Limited.	Store of Prince William Bayley at Little Hampton, Browns Town, Manchester.	Alexander Brown, Secretary, The Store of Prince William Bayley, Little Hampton, Brown's Town, Manchester.
3	The Davyton Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Davyton, Manchester.	J. H. Walters, Secretary, Davyton, Manchester.
4	The George's Valley Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	George's Valley, Manchester.	Wm. O'Meally. Secretary, George's Valley, Manchester.
5	The Central Manchester Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Mandeville, Manchester.	M. F. Johns. Secretary, Mandeville, Manchester.
6	Christiana Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Christiana, Manchester.	W. C. Leslie, Secretary, Christiana.

No.	Name of Society.	Place of Business.	Name and Address of Secretary or Manager.
7	West Manchester Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Lincoln, Spur Tree P.O., Manchester.	Jethro A. Lloyd, Secretary, Spur Tree, Manchester.
8	Mile Gully Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Bentick, Manchester.	W. A. Swaby, Secretary, Bentick, Mile Gully P.O.
9	x	x	x
10	The Ginger Hall People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Ginger Hill, St. Elizabeth.	E. S. Jarrett, Secretary, Ginger Hill.
11	The Santa Cruz People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth.	S. Aug. Blythe, Secretary, Santa Cruz.
12	The Malvern People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Malvern, St. Elizabeth.	N. E. Seal, Secretary, pro tem, Malvern.
13	The Porus Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Porus, Manchester.	A. S. Rose, Secretary, pro tem, Porus.
14	Pratville Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Pratville, Manchester.	W. S. Jones, Secretary, pro tem, Pratville.
15	Patrick Town Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Patrick Town, Newport P.O., Manchester.	A. G. Benjamin, Secretary, pro tem, Patrick Town.
16	Balaclava Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Balaclava, St. Elizabeth.	W. Graham McAusland, Secretary, pro tem, Balaclava.
17	Siloah Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Siloah, St. Elizabeth.	.... Secretary, pro tem, Siloah.

No.	Name of Society.	Place of Business.	Name and Address of Secretary or Manager.
18	St. James' Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Montego Bay, St. James.	E. Samuel Excell, Secretary, pro tem, Montego Bay.
19	Linstead Co-operative People's Bank, Limited.	Linstead, St. Catherine.	F. A. Brown, Secretary, pro tem, Linstead.
20	Spaldings People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Spaldings, Clarendon.	G. M. Bygrave, Secretary, pro tem, Spaldings.
21	Chapelton People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Chapelton, Clarendon.	Rev. George Lacy, Secretary, pro tem, Chapelton.
22	Royal Flat People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Royal Flat, Manchester.	T. C. Thompson, Secretary, pro tem, Royal Flat.
23	Frankfield People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Frankfield, Clarendon.	C. Rupert Christian, Secretary, pro tem, Frankfield.
24	Westmoreland People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland.	John S. Nash, Secretary, pro tem, Savanna-la-Mar.
25	Bethel Town People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Bethel Town, Westmoreland.	.... Secretary, pro tem, Bethel Town.
26	Hanover People's Co-operative Bank. Limited.	Lucea, Hanover.	Frank B. Ogilvie, Solicitor, Secretary, pro tem, Lucea.
27	Alexandria People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Charlton, St. Ann.	D. Theo. Wint, Secretary, pro tem, Charlton.
28	Ulster Spring People's Co-operative Bank, Limited.	Ulster Spring, Trelawny.	G. W. Miller, Secretary, pro tem, Ulster Spring.

POULTRY NOTES.

SETTING HENS.—With January begins the new setting season. Hens should be in full laying and setters available. We use common hens for setters. They usually lay from a dozen to twenty eggs at a time, and so can be easily timed and eggs kept ready for them. It is economical to set two or three hens at one time so that if poor hatches should result the chicken can be given to one or two hens and the other one or two well fed and watered given a day off the nest and re-set. If well attended to they thrive on the nest We like to see hens step off after setting, looking fresh and healthy. Unfortunately it is too common that the setting hen is left to herself. If she does not like to come off when the other fowls are being fed, she gets no food ; but the greatest sin is not seeing that she gets water when she comes off.

Hens should not be set in houses if fowl lice have ever been in them. Get an empty barrel, turn it on its side with stones on each side to prevent rolling, put some soft earth in it, shape this like a saucer, line with soft grass, put the eggs in, and put the hen on in the evening just at dark and she will take the nest. Put a board in front for two days to keep her in, in case she comes off at daylight when she discovers her strange nest ; and after that lean the board against the front of the barrel to keep other fowls from disturbing the setter, yet still she can come off when she likes. After two days she will know the nest and return to it. It is better however to lift her and all the setters off every day, at the same time and feed and water them.

* * *

IF it is feared that dogs and pigs may have access to the nest if set on the ground, and eat the eggs (only badly trained dogs will do so), the barrels can be jammed in the cleft of trees if these are handy, or put up on posts.

The hens should be dusted with insect powder or sulphur before being set.

To save trouble in catching the setting hens after they have been fed, to put them back on their nests, it is a good plan to tie a string on the leg of each : then all one has to do is to put a foot on the string.

If fowls must be set in a house for safety, clean out the house before setting, with strong Paranaph. If fowl lice do appear clear out the straw in the nest and burn it, soak the box with Paranaph, and dip the hen in, or spray her with, Paranaph which does not affect the eggs prejudicially at all.

. . . .

In order to improve your hens only set eggs from the best layers, and, in the case of table fowls, the thriftiest hens, those that get along easiest, are healthy and keep busy looking for food.

. . . . . .

We often use small turkey hens to set on hens eggs and they can cover 18 to 20 eggs. We find them careful mothers.

CLOSE in-breeding, unless carefully done with a special object in view and birds selected with abounding vitality, is deadly, resulting in weakly chickens and much mortality. Get fresh blood in every year. *Many people complain of chickens dying off without* apparent cause; we always then suspect the cock and hens to be close relations.

* * *

DUCKS.—Muscovy ducks are hardy but as a rule degenerate. They look heavy but when handled are largely feathers.

In-breeding has been allowed by nearly every body as ducks are usually permitted to breed anyhow. It has been a case of the survial of the fittest; so this breed has developed a considerable degree of hardiness at the expense of quick growth and prolificacy in eggs.

An exchange of ducks from a distance would help the breed *considerably. We only know of one importation of fresh blood* having been made of late years.

STOCK NOTES.

Beast are still (end of *December) in* poor *condition in some* parts, but we were surprised very much in a run through the Western parishes where we would have expected the stock to show signs of the beating they had gone through with wind and rain, to see the cattle seek and fat. Even the goats tied by the road-sides were in excellent condition. Good showers and strong sunshine, had made vegetation spring wonderfully, and feeding looked plentiful.

In other parts, especially high lying districts, feeding looked bare, and the beasts, especially horse kind, looked anaemic.

* * *

Mules appear to suffer from rain and wind even more than horses. The value of shelter for horse stock should be more appreciated. Every mule out of *condition should be given a dose of* good medicine like Day Son and Hewitts well known Gaseous Fluid or Red Drench. Then given some grain food, or failing that chopped canes with a liberal dose daily of a good Condition Powder. Native *corn is so scarce that it can* hardily be *had and so stock* have to suffer. However, sugar cane was not destroyed and it should be fed freely.

* * *

More care should be taken to see that collars fit the horse or mule. The same collars are made to duty on several different beasts, not the same size or shape. Collars that are too tight and press against the windpipe are too often to be seen.

* * *

The blinders too often press against the beasts eyes. It is very common to have loose flapping blinders in use. Cruel things they are. Make them good.

When the colt is born be particular to touch around the navel with a teaspoonful of Castor Oil with a drop of Jeyes in it. This prevents infection.

Many a colt suffers from constipation, soon after it is born, the mothers milk not acting on it perhaps as it should do. An injection of warm water into the bowels is easy safe and sure. Deal tenderly when giving this.

The Castor Oil and Jeyes mixture, 1 part of Jeyes to 6 parts of Castor Oil is a good ointment to keep away fly. Apply some also round the colt's anus and any part fly may attack.

If the mare has a swollen udder bathe with hot water, relieve a little of the milk, and anoint with Castor Oil and turpentine, working it in ; 1 part of turpentine, to 6 parts of Castor Oil is the mixture. Shake when using.

* * *

Cows.—There is no better ointment or salve for sore teats than common Castor oil.

Lay in a stock of Paranaph and Coopers Dip for the Tick Season. One good thing the storm did ; the rain must have destroved millions of ticks. There will however be plenty more. Do not let any big ticks drop off your beasts. If you spray, the ticks won't get growing big.

Any heifer in first calf meant to be milked, should be taken up and handled. Work the udder gently for a few minutes every day.

Keep a good eye on the cows heavy in calf ; when they appear to be about to calve bring them into the yard, or where there are many, a special pasture where they can be seen all day,

* * *

Goats.—Handle young Nannies about to kid in the same way as the heifers. Tie them to a post quietly, sit on your haunches, on the right side of the beast and gently work the udder. We have several being so handled now. They are not wild but they are shy, never having had a rope on them. Some of them already straddle their legs as if to be milked, and they appear to like the handling of their small udders ; for they are only young in kid, some not in kid yet.

Nothing is more objectionable than a milking cow or goat that kicks.

* * *

Make those young Billies, Wethers at not later than two months old.

Any particularly good animal to be kept for service should be kept strictly apart from nannies until he is a year old. And no nanny should be bred before thet age. This gives them a chance [illegible]

PIGS.—A fat boar is of little use. He must have exercise to keep in good condition.

We believe more and more in moveable pens for pigs. So many poor pieces of land can be made rich in this way, and the pigs always get fresh ground, and so keep healthy.

Pig pens are too often kept terribly filty ; deep in sloppy muck, with not a corner for the pig to lie in comfort.

* * *

GUINEA PIGS.—These animals are often kept when rabbits are kept as they are supposed to keep away rats. And they do. People eat Guinea Pigs too and why not as well as rabbits ?. Guinea pigs are much inbred however as fresh blood has not been easy to obtain. Now however, a Fancier has imported several lots of remarkably fine Guinea Pigs, different varieties and different colours. Those interested, desirous of getting bucks and does or both, can write us.

* * *

RABBITS.—These animals are often most degenerate, small beasts and poor breeders, through several causes, the chief being in-breeding ; the next lack of regular and plentiful feeding ; the next, leaky and dirty houses. The does should be separated at 2 months old. A fresh buck should be got by purchase or exchange. Abundance of green feeding should be put in the house every night ; and a small supply in the morning. Breeding does should not be kept together but each have a separate compartment to herself.

SEASONABLE NOTES.

After the storm in November there was the most favourable growing weather imaginable. We were fortunate in having no cold spells such as sometimes occur about Christmas, and which when they occur, although the exceptionally cold weather usually lasts a day or two only, sets back the growth of the real tropical plants a month or even two months. All through December too in most parts there were genial showers so that with the earth well saturated with moisture, and strong sunshine in the day, there has been phenomenal growth.

* * *

BANANAS.—Planters are beginning to revise their estimates that there would be no bananas where there were all blown down, until August next and if there is no spring drought, those who are not pruning heavily and holding over their fruiting until the spring of 1914, now estimate that there will be bananas from June next.

Small settlers should watch that they do not allow too many suckers to grow on the old banana roots. Growth is exuberant and multitudes of suckers are springing. Try to leave a succession

of suckers but allow a good stout one a good start, followed by another one keeping about half the height, and a small one half the height again. If one gets a start of 3 months, it will keep the next one in its place. We see, however three or four suckers about the same size being allowed to grow. This will defeat the owners aim because they will simply keep each other back and be longer in fruiting, with poorer fruit than if one got a good start followed by other two.

Those who promptly planted peas and beans through their banana fields after the storm will be well recompensed. Already (first week of January) the red beans are blossoming and Black Eye Peas look to blossom in two to three weeks. Before the end of January we shall be picking our Red Kidney beans,* familiarly known as "Red Peas."

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* *

COCOA.—Work was commenced among the damaged cocoa trees promptly and we were pleased to hear that so many small settlers, especially those who were members of our Branch Societies in the western parishes, quickly tackled the propping up, packing the exposed roots with dirt where the trees could not be straightened up, and pruning the broken branches.

One Branch Society promptly asked us to send a keg of tar for the use of the members to dress the pruning cuts. An excellent sign this was.

We publish some hints as to the treatment of damaged cocoa trees, and though it is late, still the information has already reached those it is intended for, through the Instructors visits and at meetings of Branch Societies. That is the benefit of having an organization—information can be got, given, and spread promptly. We put these few hints on record anyhow.

It was a pity that the storm destroyed most of the young cocoa plants which were just ready for distribution at the new Montpelier Nursery started for the benefit of cocoa growers in the west end, but some were saved and seed was promptly planted again, so that by the time this is read, young plants will be ready for distribution.

The ground is so moist and there is so much trash available in the fields for mulching that planting can be safely done even in the usually unsafe month of February, generally so dry. As the young plants are put in, split a piece of banana stem and put pieces, the flat or split side downwards on the ground at each side of the young plant, round it but not touching the stem. This is a good plan to conserve moisture for the young plants.

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COCONUTS.—Mr. L. A. Wates, the Agricultural Instructor for East Portland and East St. Thomas, has been transferred for a

month to the west end to help growers of coconuts there to tackle their uphill job of making the best of their damaged trees.

While some of the larger estates there had within a month their thousands of trees attended to, the young ones which had been partly blown over all being propped up and their roots earthed, and the older ones not destroyed, having their broken leaves cut off, we saw around small settlers houses and in their fields very little sign of attending to the damaged trees. And with broken leaves covering and pressing against the bud, there is fear of disease being fostered. However, we took into account that small settler's *first thought was for their yams and bananas and work amongst* these was enough to occupy men hard before they tackled coconut trees. And, too, the two Instructors in the western parishes had their hands full with pushing for attention to bananas and cocoa. So that a special Instructor, one familiar with coconut cultivation and the treatment of diseased and damaged trees having had, experience in the same direction in the east end in 1903, was really wanted.

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YAMS.—We rather think still that the loss to the yams is greater as far as small settlers are concerned than the loss among bananas. The latter grow up without replanting but yams blown over at a certain stage in their growth not only lose, or at least partly lose the present crop, but there is nothing to replant with. We made particulary enquiry of the Instructors, private individuals who were large growers, and all of our Branch Societies as to *the state of the yam crop, and find now, when six weeks or so* have passed since storm,—and it is better found how the yams will turn out– that the loss is greater than we at first estimated. Some districts rather exaggerated the loss ; others could not, as it would have been hard to do so.

The chief loss is to the Afou or Yellow Yam crop which has to be planted from "heads" which are made after the tubers themselves are fit and are lifted. The storm caught this particular variety half grown and largely destroyed the present crop and left nothing to replant. The summer drought had so retarded this crop that the plants were weak anyhow. At the same time, although the west end and central districts have suffered most in this way, and other districts have had much damage done, some places escaped entirely. Portland and St. Thomas have been the most fortunate in this way. St. Andrew and St. Catherine not badly off. If enough yams can be got in these lucky districts, we may be able to make arrangements to get yam heads for the supply of those parts where there are no heads to plant at all. But there will be a large shortage of yams for a good few years.

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PEAS AND BEANS.—The fine growing weather referred to in the paragraph about bananas, exactly suited the growth of catch

crops and there have been no failures of growth reported. We tested all the peas and beans sent out, and are pleased to report quick and sure growth with the imported red kidney beans blossoming in a month from planting, and likely to set a good crop of beans. The Black Eye Peas are of course slower to grow but they are doing exceedingly well. Being imported seed we were not quite sure of the growth these would make, so we are well satisfied. More peas and beans should be planted in the months of January, February, March and April.

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CORN.—There have been great demands for seed corn but none has been available in December. Many will try a twelfth day planting on 12th of January, and if a few showers come in that month at all, the crop should be successful. We have only been able to secure a full quantity of corn in time for this planting and it will be the end of February, before any fair supplies come in. It won't be selected seed corn but will require to do for this year. We expect some good seed corn in March.

***

VEGETABLES.—Most gardens were destroyed or much damaged by the storm. And many did not plant again we know, for the demand for seed was not such as we expected. We expect too many had overwhelming work and cares with their chief crops and had to let garden work stand.

Vegetables will be scarce and dear, in the spring. We have still plenty of seed.

To encourage small settlers we have gone to the trouble to put up small packets of vegetable seeds at a penny and twopence ; *some kinds cannot be made up in penny-worths.*

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GUINEA CORN.—We are again this year struck by the quick strong growth of the three different varieties of Sorghums we planted and their resistance to wind and rain as well as drought. Unlike country corn(maize)which is easily destroyed and when blown down is often a total loss, at the least then a serious loss, Guinea Corn if blown down, promptly springs not only at the old roots, but from every joint. And if these joints are earthed over, or cut off and planted like sugar cane, there is a strong growth quite as good as from seed. If it was not for birds—and if plenty of people planted this corn, the attacks of the birds would not be much felt—large crops of seed would result and it would be cheap. At present we have thousands of birds of different kinds, but chiefly the little grass birds, busily picking the seed.

So soon as the drought broke in the middle of September, we planted seed and by the end of December the stalks were 7 to 8 feet high. Planting earlier they would have grown far larger of course. They shot heads in December and in the first week of

January are ripening. As this corn was planted for cutting as fodder if needed, it was planted thickly, some 6 to 10 stalks being allowed to grow in each hole. Some of these branch at 4 feet from the ground and above and bear 4 to 6 heads. So it can be imagined what a crop of seeds would result if the birds let it alone. The soil is dry and stony but evidently the Guinea corn roots are strong feeders, for country corn (maize) only gives a poor crop on the same soil. One hole had twelve plants growing, four of these having four heads and all having more than one head. Some of the stalks that are lying on the ground, knocked over by the wind, have sent out roots from the joint and have new plants 3 to 4 feet up. Not wishing to be accounted a Baron Munchausen we have photographed some of the branching stalks bearing 4 or 5 heads.

COMMENTS.

AGRICULTURAL LOAN BANKS.—The following notice from the Registrar-General is brought to the attention of any local Committee, which may be organizing an Agricultural Loan Bank :

"Applications for registration of any Agricultural Loan Bank must be made in the form prescribed in the rules and regulations framed under the Industrial Provident Law 1902."

Bound copies of these rules and regulations can be obtained from the Government Printing Office. To save local secretaries time, they can send to this office for them.

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Readers should refer to a short special article on Loan Banks in this issue.

We also publish a list of the Agricultural Loan Banks already established and registered (as at 15 January, 1913). This seems satisfactory, and an equal number is in process of being established.

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COTTON-GROWING COMPETITION IN SCHOOL GARDENS.—The judging for this Competition has been arranged for the end of January or the beginning of February, as suits the various districts. Owing to the long drought, some of those who intended entering were not able to plant in time, and the storm of November has put others out of the running, especially in St. James, Trelawny and St. Elizabeth. Still, St. Elziabeth provides as many entries as the other parishes. The entries for the Competition are as follows :—St. Elizabeth 5, and S. Manchester 2, This forms one district. S. Clarendon 5. Lower Trelawny 4, and St. James 2, forming one district. St. Catherine 4. St. Andrew 4, and St. Thomas 1, forming one district. There were no entries from Hanover and Westmoreland, nor from St. Ann.

SCHOOL GARDENS AND SEEDS.—Teachers having School Gardens often apply to us for vegetable seeds to be supplied free for their Garden. There is no arrangement between the Society and the *Education Department* to supply any seeds free, but we stock vegetable seeds at 3d. a packet, and all the other seeds advertised in this JOURNAL *at the prices mentioned*.

For experimental purposes, however, we can often supply to teachers for their School Gardens, small packets of such seeds as *Cowpeas, Black Eye Peas, and Cotton*, and usually *also*, Pumpkin seed free.

We advise teachers to send for packets of Sunflower seed, which will make a very handsome border for their garden. We shall supply these seeds in 1d. packets. Those School Gardens in the parishes of St. James, Hanover, and Westmoreland which have been destroyed by the hurricane, can have all seeds free, including vegetable seeds, *up to the end of* February, on application to the Secretary.

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CAPITAL.—*In one of the earlier issues of this* JOURNAL, an article on Capital appeared. We thought it contained some very striking ideas, very true and forceful ideas. We borrow some of these.

At the present time there is a great cry for capital, and the possession of some in cash is useful, immensely useful. But cash is not the only form of capital nor the most precious. And we have been sorry to note how much of the best form of capital has been wasted, not used, during the seven weeks since the storm. So many men have been doing little or nothing to clear up fields and plant foodstuffs, but have been sitting down bemoaning their fate and *crying out for capital in the form* of loans. We are not unsympathetic; we have expended a good deal of two forms of capital at least, in trying to be of use to those who have suffered, namely time, and labour, long outside of office hours, and been doing our best to help on the means of securing capital in cash by means of loans. But there are two forms of capital that are precious, and which men already have. Time is a precious thing, yet hours, days, weeks, have been wasted by some in simply waiting. And strength—the power of the strong arm, the active body, the thinking brain, all put into effect in work,—is a valuable form of capital. Health, strength, energy—what precious capital not being used? Surely it is as well to be plodding along, using our available capital, our time and strength, in doing some work, rather than in lamenting our losses and wondering what is going to happen.

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SUB-OFFICERS GUIDE.—A good many communications come from local Branch Societies, asking for explanation as to the Laws, principally those affecting agriculture.

The Board of Management has recommended each Branch to procure a copy of the Sub-Officers Guide, which can now be purchased from this office at 2/6 a copy, post free. This book contains an *epitome of most of the Laws which it is material for people in the* country to be familiar with, so that when any question on any Law occurs in any locality, the particular Law could be read at a meeting of the Branch Society, and members thus know of it.

* * *

BANANA REJECTIONS.—What do you think of Banana rejections here reaching 40 per cent. of the cuttings, and we can only figure out the cause as either of the following, "Monopoly, or don't want it ?" Disease making rapid strides amongst the plantations. The farms ploughed in 1910 will be more or less extinct in 1913, and the output is sure to drop considerably. Atlantic Fruit Co. has a concession from the Government of 10,000 hectares on this River "Porisimina" which is partly navigable, and by opening the Coastal Lagoon will have a cheap and easy waterway from the banks of this river to the mouth of the Moisi River where vessels can load from Lighters in a small Bay,—Correspondent, Costa Rica.

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PANAMA DISEASE AND IMMUNE BANANAS.—We wrote in this JOURNAL long ago (page 167, April JOURNAL 1911), that the United Fruit Co. had discovered an immune banana, or one that had at least temporarily proved immune in Costa Rica, and which because it was supposed to have come from the Congo originally, was called by that name, the "Congo Banana." That Company have been propagating this banana carefully for some years in Costa Rica, and are now in a position to send shipments of the fruit North. The newspaper story about an immune banana being discovered in Nicaragua called the "Australian," we do not place much faith in. In Australia the ordinary banana is the ordinary Cavendish, China, or dwarf banana. But as fast as they can they are propagating the Gros Michel, otherwise our own Jamaica banana, as being superior for their purpose to the Cavendish. However, plants often get name of places they are supposed to belong to when they are not even common there. There is the instance of what is called in Florida, Jamaica Sorrel, or Roselle, not very common here. And the Jerusalem pea (Mungo Phaseolus)—a ridiculous name, for it is a native of India, and probably unknown in Palestine.

* * *

As we remarked in a paragraph in last issue, a monthly journal is much handicapped in many ways, especially in dealing with current events. Some of the matter is written several months ahead, and the latest generally three weeks ahead of publication. It is this that makes it difficult to write such matter as "Seasonable Hints," that is what work in the way of planting, pruning, culti-

vating, etc.' might suitably be done during the month following. One cannot foresee what weather conditions may prevail, so can only write generally, from experience of the average run of weather in the same month in the previous year. The nearest approach to the weather we had last November was in the same month of 1900. In that year the wind blew hard, and the rain fell harder. There was much damage done to Bananas in that month of that year, but outside of that crop not much loss.

This year the rain fell hard and long, and the wind blew hard and long. Never in our recollection here did stormy weather continue so long. Generally, if we get a storm at all, we get it hard for a night or day. In this case it rained and blew for a week all over the island, finishing up in a most disastrous hurricane blowing over the West End, particularly the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James. Trelawny and St. Elizabeth were just on the edge of the hurricane; and the storm was lighter going East. In the month of August, 1903, it was just the reverse. Then from the middle to the West escaped entirely, and there were good crops of everything over that half of the island. This time no part escaped the blow, and crops have suffered nearly all over. However, there are parts where bananas and other crops have escaped fairly well; but these are mostly patches, fields or parts of field here and there. On the whole, the plains of St. Catherine, and all St. Thomas, got off best as regards bananas, and St. Andrew and Portland were lightly dealt with. Yams and peas and beans got off well in parts of Portland, St. Mary, St. Andrew, and St. Thomas.

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We could not thus give advice as to what might be done in last JOURNAL, issued over a month after the storm. But unlike 1903, we are better, and more efficiently organised, and by means of our Instructors and Branch Societies, we have been able to reach cultivators to a large extent, and render them assistance.

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There has in this way been very little delay in getting things done in many ways to help to restore cultivations, distribute seed for planting, organize Loan Banks, and generally make every cultivator feel that if he cares, he can express his voice in the councils of agriculture and be an articulate unit, helping to help himself and every other body by taking interest in things, and so doing something for the general welfare.

We refer readers to Seasonable Hints.

TOOLS.—Keep your tools sharp. Then you can do more work with less labour. It is a good plan that has been adopted by several Branch Societias to have a Grind-stone of their own. In addition files should be kept in hand by every one.

BRANCH NOTES.

Enfield (St. Mary).—Owing to the very inclement weather that prevailed in November, the regular monthly meeting of this branch could not be held. A special meeting was held on the 26th November, with the object of sending a petition to His Excellency the Governor, laying before him the distressed condition of the small cultivators of this district, caused from the recent severe drought, and increased by the storm that passed over the district on the 16th November. and asking His Excellency to grant Loans to the small cultivators to aid them in vestoring their cultivations. The Regular monthly meeting of the branch was held on the 11th inst when there were present the president Rev. W. S. Taylor, president, vice-presidents, Sherriff and Beckford, the Secretary, thirty regular members and Mrs. Jane Espeut as a visitor. The meeting was opened with prayer. after which the secretary was asked to read the minutes of October meeting which was done, and they were confirmed. The President tren moved a vote of Condolence, to vice-president Beckford in his recent sad bereavement. The following gentlemen qualified and became members of the Branch :—Messrs. Jacob P. Allen, N. McLeod, Nathan Minott, George West, Thomas Taylor, Charles Laidley, Robert Manahan, James Phoenix, Josiah Duncan, George Bryan, Richard Sampson, Edwin Johnson, William Cummings and Mrs. Sarah Murdoch, Mary Annie Henry, Mrs. Caroline Graham. The correspondence was read and the Governor's reply to the petition was dealt with in extenso. The president asked for reports from the Authorized Persons, but none was present. It was moved by the president and seconded by Mr. H. D. Sherriff that in future the authorized men in connection with this branch give a quarterly report of the work done by them either orally or written. This was unanimously agreed to. Mr. J. N. Sutherland's resolution re the establishment of a reading room in connection with the branch, to promote the Social and intellectual condition of the young men of the district, was discussed, and help was promised him as soon as his plans are matured. It was stated to the meeting that road No. 6 is in a very delapidated condition and the meeting decided to call the attention of the Parochial Board to it. Vice president Sherriff gave notice that at the next meeting of the Branch he would move the following resolution. That under the existing circumstances the proposed Local Show to be held in April next be postponed indefinitely. The business of the evening having been completed the meeting was adjourned until the 8th January, 1913. The district is in a very distressing condition ; the people are suffering great privations their cultivations having been killed out by the drought. The aged and infirm are most to be pitied.—

J. Z. JOHNSON, Secretary.

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Rural Hill (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the school-room here on the 26th November, 1912. Present L. A. Wates, Esqr., Instructor, eighteen members, the Secretary and W. A. Ellison, Jno. Panton, W. Z. Buckley, (members of Fair Prospect Branch) as visitors also a goodly number of the fair sex as visitors. In the absence of the President and vice-presidents, L. A. Wates, Esq., was called to the chair ; meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Charles McCain, after which minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. As arising out of minutes, members were informed that the grindstone which Mr. Hinshelwood was asked to purchase for the use of the Society has been procured and was at Mulatto River. Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Hinshelwood asking him to be good enough to send it down to Long Bay. A committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer Messrs. Kelly and McCain was appointed to see the stone erected. The Instructor strongly recommended the formation of a rat-killing club by

the members of the Society for the extermination of rats. Members will be supplied with poison to be set in bamboo joints and a report given at each meeting of the number of rats killed. The following names were enrolled as members of the club. Messrs. M. Richards, Jas. Burke, Jasper Bryan, Jas Reid. G. Clachar, G. Bell, W. S. Bryan, Jas Clachar, J. Sutton, A. Kelley, C. Speid. C. McCain, W. E. Bryrn, G. Deans, A. Sutton, G. Lewis, J. Bryan, and the Secretary. At the roll-call, twenty members responded to their names. A letter from the Secretary of the Parent Society to the effect that a branch with a membership of 49 ought to be an independent branch was read. Messrs. Kelley, M. Richards, G. Bell, J. Clachar, J. Burke and the secretary spoke in favour of Mr. Barclay's letter. Messrs. Ellison, Buckley and Panton, (members of Fair Prospect Branch,) each addressed the meeting, urging that this branch should remain affiliated to the mother branch for some time more. The Instructor then gave a very lucid explanation of the situation. The matter was then put to the vote and carried by all the members present that this branch become independent. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Fair Prospect Branch informing them of our separation. Agreed, that a notice board be erected at Long Bay for the use of the Society. Next meeting was fixed for 17th December. Members of this branch have been invited to a lecture to be given by Mr. Williams at Fair Prospect on the 3rd Saturday in December, re the formation of bananas figs factory. The instructor made some observation, on the recent " blow " and the destruction of bananas and which should teach us not to put all our eggs in one basket. Mr. Alfred Fleetwood was enrolled as a member of the society. After the singing of the National Anthem, a profitable meeting was brought to a close.—W. CHAMBERS, *Secretary.*

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Mahoe Hill (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting was held on Thursday 23rd November, presided over by the President. From the unsettled condition of the weather and the river still being flooded the attendance was not as large as here before. The minutes of the last meeting was read and confirmed. There was notning speeially arranged the Chairman moved this resolution, seconded by T. Cousin, and carried. That in consequence of the recent storm which has done so much damage to the small settlers around, the Agricultural Societies of Scotts Hall, Castleton, and Mahoe Hill that the Governor be approached through their representation, and be asked for a Loan to aid the small settlers in their efforts to restore their crops. Business for the next meeting. The Secretary gave notice to call the attention of the members to the dangerous condition of the road leading up to the station and since a branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society had been started and recognised by the mother society, it follows that Officers of the Society and other gentlemen interested in Agriculture will visit us from time time to time; it therefore necessary that we try to improve it by Voluntary efforts. That a day be fixed for the carrying out of the proposed. 2. That the date of monthly meeting be changed (by T. Cousin.) 3. That the treasurer make a report of the financial standing of the society (by president). 4. Rules of the Jamaica Agricultural Society printed in the October No. be read and considered, Secretary. The National Anthem brought the meeting to an end.—W. A. S. SIBBLIES, Secretary.

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Wilmington (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting of this branch took place in the Wilmington School room on Friday November 29th at 5 30 p.m. There were present Messrs. E. W. Monaghan, vice-president, president, H. C. Thomas, Agricultural Instructor, eighteen members, four visitors and the Secretary. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Speid. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Arising out of minutes there was further discussion about the grindstone and the following gentlemen were appointed members of the grindstone committee. Messrs. D. McPherson, R. Porter, H. Lewis, A. Gallaway, W. R. Bailey and C. Drysdale. The secretary stated that the fittings for grindstone were at Messrs. Lyons awaiting carriage, but owing to the inclement weather no carts from the district had been able to go to Kingston for the last three weeks. A very important item on the agenda was the drafting of a Resolution, (copies to be forwarded to the Hon. member for the parish and to the Hon. Colonial Secretary) re the completion of the Main Road leading from Morant Bay via Stanton Wilmington, Mt. Stewart to Bath. It was moved by Mr. Alxander Grant, and unanimously adopted :—Resolved : That in view of the fact that the large and fruitful districts of Wilmington, Pilot Mt. Stewart, etc., are entirely dependent on the Stanton Road for their agricultural development, as that road is only outlet for their produce, and alse the great benefit that the completion of the road will be to the travelling public between Morant Bay and the Bath and P. G. River' districts that the member for the parish be respectfully asked to urge on the government the necessity for having the remaining two miles of road completed so as to open the whole road to wheeled traffic, and as the matter is of great necessity and has been for so long shelved by the Government the Society earnestly entreats the Hon. Member to urge its importance on the Government with a view to having the work proceeded with without further postponement. It was suggested by the Secretary that an Entertainment of some kind be got up in order to augment the funds of the Society. After deliberate discussion of the matter it was decided to have a Picnic and Gala Day on the 2nd January next. A Committee consisting of twelve members was appointed to make all the necessary arrangements and fixtures. Mr. H. C. Thomas next gave some seasonable hints re the most approved methods to be adopted in the successful growing of vegetables. He advised members to sow seeds in boxes taking the necessary precaution : boring holes, putting a layer of stones at the bottom, then the earth next, the surface of which should be pressed. The depth to which to sow seeds depends largely on the size of the seed. He further advised inter alia in transplanting to place the sucker in the soil deep down almost to growing point. After dealing separately with each of the vegetables in common use the speaker impressed on his audience the necessity of cultivation in order to get the best results. At the close of the lecture the viec-president moved a vote of thanks which was readily responded to. Mr. Samuel Lewis of John's Town was elected a member of the Society. The singing of the National Anthen brought a very enjoyable and profitabie meeting to a close.—R. W. O'Niel Speid, Hon. Secretary.

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Richmond (St. Mary).—The regularly monthly meeting should have been held the 1st Friday in December, 1912, was held on Friday the 29th November, at 5 30 p.m., by a special request of the instructor. There were present, Mr. Cradwick, (Instructor), Mr. Arnett Travelling Supervisor of Instructors, the president, eighteen members, and, two visitors. Minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence from the Parochial Board was read, also the letter sent to the secretary for the balance of 8/11 due to the Jamaica Agricultural Society for line, etc., sent them. After some discussion it was thought best to write the Secretary of the Parent Society, asking him whether the Government did not make some arrangement for lime for agricultural purposes going by rail free to branch societies. Next on the agenda was the election of officers. Mr. C. H. Abrahams was re-elected president, C. Gregg, Secretary, Messrs. H. R. Thomas and C. Foster, vice-presidents. The following gentlemen were appointed to serve on the managing committee.

T. Davis, J. Tennant, C. Morrison, J. McIntosh and R. Henry. Mr. B. Officers treasurer. Resolution by Mr. U. McLeggan re a portion of the main road, beginning at the washerwoman's fording to Mts. Rose crossing was read. Seeing the importauce of having a deviation of the road as it crosses nine fordings, and during the rainy seasons it is very dangerous. It was resolved that a committee be formed, consisting of the Rev. R. H. McLaughlin, C. Foster, and the president, to have a petition drawn up, a copy to be sent to His Excellency the Governor and also to forward one to the representative of the parish, asking for a change of this portion of the road. Francis Bogle of Lewisburgh became a member The treasurer was expected to render to the meeting his yearly account did not turn up because he was sick. This had to be put off for the next meeting. Mr. Cradwick addressed the meeting on the agricultural loan banks. He emphasised greatly on the members of this society becoming members. He said that notices had been served to other societies for the purpose of meeting at the Richmond court house on Saturday the 30th November, for the purpose of establishing an agricultural loan bank. Mr. Arnett next addressed the meeting. He spoke extensively on the loan bank. He told us about the working of loan banks in Ireland. He said that no where in the world did the system of loan banks work better than in Ireland. The main thing in the Irish people was co-operation. He said that in the selling of eggs the Irish people did not sell individually but collectively. He spoke of a factory at Tipperary, how the milk is brought to the factory not by one man, but by the mass and in such ways they get double for what they have by selling it in union. He said if we are to succeed three things are necessary. These are confidence in ourselves, confidence in the next man, and let the other man have confidence in us. His address was well appreciated by all. He also told us that on the day before he was present at the meeting in Kingston; and that the Government is ready to help cultivators with toans only they must form Agricultural loan banks first. At 7 35 the meeting came to a close. The next meeting was fixed for the first Friday in January, 1913.—CHARLES GREGG, Secretary. (Lime is only carried free by rail if it is to be used in connection with diseases of bananas. The lime and sulphur sent was for treatment of cocoa trees. Secretary).

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Moravia (Clarendon).—In consequence of the great devastation by the recent hurricane and rain, a special meeting of this branch society was held in the Moravia schoolroom on Monday December 2nd at 2 p.m. Present: W. Z. Gatfield, chairman, George E, McNamee, and L. R. Hemming vice-presidents, the secretary, and 37 members of the society. There were also five visitors. After the confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting, the chairman explained the object of the meeting. It was moved by Mr. G. A. Robinson, seconded, and unanimously carried, that the house go in committee to discuss the various points. After a fairly long discussion, it was seen that in order to cope with the distress wrought by the hurricane, help was immediately necessary, as 67 houses have been partially damaged or totally wrecked, and cultivations destroyed. Four resolutions were then drawn up and asked to be sent to the parochial board, asking for immediate assistance. The resolutions are as follows:—(1) Whereas a few dozen houses have been partially or wholly destroyed in this and the surrounding districts, be it resolved that this society approach the Clarendon parochial board and ask that immediate assistance be given to the distressed sufferers. (2) Resolved that this society and the inhabitants of the surrounding districts view with dissatisfaction the bad condition of the roads, and beg respectfully to ask the parochial board to have them improved, and thus give immediate relief to the distressed sufferers of the district. (3) This society attributes the bad condition of the road in the past, and since the recent heavy rain, to the delinquence of the late assistant superintendent, and

respectfully suggest that the new assistant superintendent be empowered to appoint a competent local waywarden to from time to time attend to the roads as occasion arises. (4) This society asks that the parochial board renders help to the locality in the matter of giving relief work by starting immediately the Silent Hill road that has been tracked for a good time now. The above resolutions were forwarded to the chairman of the Clarendon parochial board. This special meeting was augmented by the usual bi-monthly meeting of the society on Thursday 19th December, when our esteemed agricultural instructor, Mr. S. A. Schleifer, was present. His presence cheered the heart of everyone. He gave a very warm address, first, expressing his condolence for the sufferers, secondly, encouraging members to join the agricultural loan bank. His address had a very deep impression on the minds of the planters, which I hope will not be erased, and many who never were willing to join the loan bank went away with the express purpose of becoming members. Mr. Robinson moved a hearty vote of thanks for Mr. Schleifer. This was seconded and unanimously carried. Messrs. James Douglas, Simon Smikle, and Arthur Carter were enrolled as members. The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m., by the singing of the Doxology. R. ALEX. BLAKE, Secretary.

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Bath (St. Thomas).—A special meeting was held in the schoolroom on Tuesday the 3rd December. There were present: Messrs. J. Hamilton, president, R. Jacobs, vice-president, Rev. C. G. Hardwick, L. A. Wates, and H. C. Thomas, instructors, 15 other members, 18 visitors, and the secretary. After the minutes of the last general meeting were read for the confirmation of the meeting, the president extended a hearty welcome to all, introduced Mr. Wates, who had come to lecture on corn growing, in view of the competition among the members of the society. The subject created a great deal of interest, and all came eager to gather more information to profit them, not only in the competition, but in their cultivations generally. The lecturer prefaced his remarks by telling of the postponement of the Prize Holdings Competition, and the absence of Messrs. Arnett and Briscoe, from the recent bad weather, brought to the notice of the meeting that corn can be grown in our island to supply the growing demand, and so it was his pleasure to advise that we may be able to save half the amount expended yearly on imported corn, viz., £30,000. In America the stuff was grown on such a large scale that it became a paying concern. Our branch societies have been urging on the cultivation of corn on a larger scale than before, as the return hitherto did not pay. The idea has been carried out in Manchester and St. Elizabeth with good results. He then dealt with the subject as follows, giving careful explanation of the methods on each point. 1. Preparation of land. 2. Thorough digging up of the soil. 3 Lining out in straight rows, 4. Selection of seed from best cobs. 5. Planting of not more than three seeds per hole. 6. Regular weeding and nothing planted between. 7. Selection of best cobs by marking. 8. Reaping, curing, and keeping. A lengthy discussion, which took the form of questions and answers, followed. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, and unanimously carried. The president, in presenting, promised to give a special prize of £2 to the winner of the largest yield. Mr. Wates replied, and the meeting adjourned until 19th December. It may not be out of place to mention that in considering prizes in the competition, due regard will be paid to the difference in fertility of various soils, method of cultivation, yield, and curing. The prizes will be, 1 £1, 2 10/ 3 5/.—G. R. GROVES Secretary.

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Red Hills (Clarendon).—A meeting was held in the Red Hills school room on Tuesday December 3rd at 5 o'clock. We had twenty-three members present and many visitors. Mr. S. A. Schleifer, our agricultural instructor, presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read

and confirmed. The business arising from the minutes were discussed, Enquiries were made for full explanation as to loan banks, when many questions were asked by different members, and were satisfactorily answered by our able instructor, Mr. S. A Scsleifer. Mr. Manly Risden read and explained a piece on cocoa curing. Mr. Schleifer, in its support, introduced a method for making good arrangements for drying produce. The secretary moved that a pic nic be held for the purpose of helping on the society, which was unanimously carried, and fixed for December 30th. It was arranged that the day for meetings be changed from Tuesday to Friday, and instead of having monthly meetings, to have them every two months, and demonstrations monthly, from January 1913. Resolved, that the president draw up a resolution to the parochial board about the difficulty of the road from Bryant' Hill through Red Hills, and have it signed by as many as possible. Decided that th names of authorized persons be sent to the Inspector of Police, asking for recognition. Meeting came to a close after singing National Anthem.—A. E. MILLS, Secretary.

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Brewn's Hall (St. Catherine).—This branch met in the schoolroom here on Tuesday 3rd December. The president being absent, Mr. Geo. Thomas was asked to preside. The meeting was well attended, there being over fifty persons present. Mr. H. L. Mossman, agricultural instructor, explained that one of the chief objects in calling the meeting at this time was to ascertain as far as possible the extent of the damage that had been done by the storm in these districts, with a view of obtaining aid by means of loans from the government. He was not promising that money was going to be loaned out to everybody, but wherever there was destruction done by the storm, and there was sufficient security given, some aid would be obtained. A central committee had been formed in the parish—St. Catherine—and sub-committees in connection with the different agricultural societies were being formed, so that all the necessary information could be gathered early and forwarded to the proper authorities. After this matter of loans had been carefully explained, the instructor gave very valuable hints with regard to the cultivation of bananas. Special care would have to be taken in pruning now, so as to meet the spring of 1914. He also dealt with the pruning of the coffee, which he pointed out should begin to get attention in that direction about this season. Mr. Mossman was heartily thanked for his timely and helpful suggestions. Three applications for the appointment of authorized persons were received and considered. It was decided to forward these to the secretary of the parent society. Members were reminded that the society had gone far in its aim to foster the spirit of co-operation. A grindstone had been bought and put up in a convenient centre for the free use of members. There are three forks and three pruning shears, which members could borrow at any time. All should endeavour to help in increasing the membership so that these benefits might be extended to a large number of persons. A few minor matters were dealt with, when several members spoke. It was decided to hold the regular meetings on the evening of the second Wednesday of every month. The meeting adjourned.—E. ALEX TOMLINSON, Secretary.

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Bull Head (Clarendon).—The usual monthly meeting was held at Mt. Carmel on the 4th December, There were present, the instructor, the president, the secretary, Messrs. J. H. Robothom, R. L. Reeves, C. A. Nelson, D. Wilson, and several others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The instructor then addressed the meeting. He encouraged those who had suffered in the recent hurricane to launch out afresh. He also pointed out how the bananas left standing, though battered, should be treated, in order that some yield may be had. He

next spoke on the establishment of the loan bank society in Chapelton, and urged the members to come down to Chapelton on the 6th, to identify themselves with the society. The president supported the argument of the instructor, driving home the object and usefulness of such a society. The secretary suggested that the members should bring their JOURNALS to the meetings, when portions therefrom could be read and discussed. The suggestion was adopted. The meeting then rose.—T. S. ROBINSON, Secretary.

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Cambridge (St. James.—A special meeting was held on the 5th Dec., 1912, at 6 p.m. Mr. H. S. Whittingham, vice-president, presided. Besides several members of the Branch, there was a large turn out of the general public. Messrs. Arnett (Travelling Supervisor of Instructors) and Hanson, local Instructor were present. In the absence of the secretary, Mr. R. H. Kerr was asked to act as secretary of the meeting. The chairman, after explaining that the Agricultural Instructors were present to find out how many persons (and to what extent) would require catch crops to meet the situation caused by the recent hurricane, called on Mr. Arnett to address the meeting. Mr. Arnett expressed his sorrow at the state of affairs he witnessed as he went through the district during the day. The prospects of a few weeks previous to the hurricane when he visited the district were bright and full of hope. Now the contrast was so appaling that he was almost dumbfounded. We must not however, allow the devastation to cripple us. We must put our shoulders to the wheel and repair the damage done. He (Mr. Arnett) was sent down at the request of His Excellency the Governor, to render what help he could to the inhabitants of the stricken area. He was here with that object and would be glad to know what seeds would be most suitable at this time, and in any other way he could be of use. A warm tribute was paid by the speaker to the secretary of the parent society, who directly he heard of the devastation ordered seeds from America. The meeting was at this stage invited to state its views. After several members and others expressed their views, it was decided that red beans would be the kind of seed most needed. At the same time supplies of black eye peas, cow peas and Lima beans would be gladly received. There were several demands for seed corn but the meeting was informed that it was very difficult to obtain corn just now. There was not much demand for potato slips as these could be had here and there, locally. Although late in the Fall several persons would be glad to receive vegetable seeds for sowing. On rising again to speak, Mr. Arnett reminded the meeting that the parent society is only aiming at supplying the actual needs and not the wants, that exist in order to help the people to tide over their difficulties. He would advise that when the reaping time comes, some of the seeds should be earmarked for planting again, and suggested that Mr. Whittingham associated with one or two others, be the distributing agent when the seeds arrive. Mr. Arnett concluded his helpful remarks with a strong appeal to put forth the best and be up and doing. Mr. Harrison next addressed the meeting. He expressed his sympathy with the sufferers and urged all to seize the present opportunity and show by their courageous efforts that they truly merit the appelation, "Noble St. James." He proceeded to give advice on how the destroyed fields and crops should be treated, making particular mention of the banana, coconut, coffee and breadfruit. It would be a capital thing, he thought to have the fields re-forked as soon as a portion of the present store of water is dried up. The usual vote of thakks was accorded the two gentlemen for their timely hints and suggestions, and the hearty singing of the National Anthem ended a helpful meeting.—A. H. KERR, Acting Sec.

Central St. Mary.—On Thursday, 5th December, 1912, the regular monthly meeting was held in the Eliot schoolroom. The president presided.—Members present numbered 19, the secretary and a large number of visitors. President welcomed members. Minutes of last meeting meeting were read and confirmed. Letter was read from the Agricultural Instructor, Mr. Cradwick stating he could not be present, as he had two other calls for the same day. He asked that it be impressed strongly upon the members the importance of becoming members of the Loan Bank that is being formed at Richmond. The president, secretary and vice-president spoke for some time on the matter, trying to show the great advantages to be derived, more especially at this time when some aid was needed, in consequence of the state of devastation brought on by the hurricane of the past month. Members were quite interested in the movement, and by the many questions raised, and the lively discussion it brought forth there was a very healthy sign of its being strongly supported. A few members gave in their names to the secretary to be proposed at the committee meeting of the bank. Others who were willing to join felt like waiting till the rules and regulations of the bank were published when they would be in a better position to understand every detail. Business arising from the minutes were, (a) age limit for applicants for membership; (b) Discussion re authorised persons; (c) Discussion re prize holdings competition; (d) Planting the banana; (e) Debate, burning vs. burying; (f) Paper on fowl rearing; (g) Solo by Miss Williams. The majority of these items were left over for next meeting, as the loan bank question took up so much of the time. Decided that in view of the fact that the church authorities have granted the free use of the school room, the branch should show appreciation, by giving to the deserving poor a christmas treat. A special subscription should be raised for the purpose. A committee consisting of the secretary, assistant secretary and Mr. J. Gordon was appointed to deal with the matter. After a very profitable evening the meeting was adjourned. The National Anthem close the proceeding.—E. A. Gunter, Secretary.

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Hampstead (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting of this branch met here on the 5th December, 1912, at 7 p.m. There were present:—Rev. I. N. D. Gordon (in the chair), W. Cradwick, Esq., the secretary and 25 other members. Over 20 visitors were also present. Of these 13 became members, making a membership of 50. The usual preliminaries being dene, the president made touching references to the distressed people of the storm stricken parishes, and hoped that the members who are able, will contribuse to the "Gleaner" fund. It was thought unnecessary to discuss the banana fig scheme as there will be no fruits for many months to come. The secretary reported that the names of the men to serve as authorized persons (Law 4 of 1909) were sent to the secretary of the parent society. A resolution asking for assistance to replant and renovate the cultivations destroyed by drought in this district was sent to the Governor through the Hon. R. P. Simmonds. It is gratifying to learn that His Excellency takes a sympathetic view of the matter even though he cannot at present give direct assistance. Mr. Cradwick at this stage addressed the meeting. He was in deep sympathy with the sufferers from the storm. The speaker then dealt with Loan Banks. One of the duties of the Agricultural Society was to take steps to bring distressing circumstances to the attention of the Government. He was in favour with any effort to encourage self-reliance. To appeal to the mother country for help every time we had a disaster, was not wise, and much harm will be done by this means. His Excellency was aware of this and he was making efforts to prevent anything that might help to interfere with the Island's good name. Many interesting extracts from the "Gleaner" were read to show the very wise view His

Excellency had taken of the matter- The conditions under which Loan Banks were formed and conducted were fully explained. Many important questiens were asked by Messrs. E. A. Ashton, S Lindo, D. Osborne and others.. All were satisfactorily answered, after which over 60 shares were taked. It was decided to make Hampstead, Jackson, Preston and Islington one district for the purpose of the bauk with Port Maria as its headquarter. The secretary was instructed to write Mr. Palache for regulations governing those banks. A warm tribute was paid to the Hon. R. P. Simmonds, for the way he had represented to the Government the distressing circumstances caused by the floods and drought. Messrs. W. White, T. N. Francis. B. Russell, Samuel Williams and R. A. White paid in their subscription for the year. After dealing with a few minor matters the National Anthem and the Benediction closed the eveniug's proceedings.—B. F. MACALLA, Secretary.

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Waldensia (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting of this branch waf convened in the Waldemar sehoolroom on the 5th December, 1912. The meeting was opened with prayer by the secretary who occupied the chair for a short time in the absence of the president and vice-presidents. At the roll-call, 11 members were present and 5 came in afterwards making the number 16. The president came in and took his seat and the items on the agenda were proceeded with. The subject of authorized persons to act as policemen was brought up for discuesion, and after a short time it was moved by Mr. Thos. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Robert Simpson that Messrs. James Whitely and David East be nominated for the Brown's Mountain, Mt. Lebanon, Reserve, Sherwood and Piedmont districts ; and the seeretary moved that Mr. Robt. Simpson be nominated for Coxheath and Content. This was seconded by Mr. Chambers ; and both nominations were unanimously supported. It was moved by the secretary, for Mr. Harrisou, the instructor that the day of holding the regular monthly meeting be changed from Thursday to Friday of the first week in the month: seconded by Mr. Chambers and agreed to by the meeting. As regards the Local Show in contemplation, the President was not in a position to say much, owing to the set back caused by the recent hurricane, and further, because he has had no communication with the Local Instructor since the proposed delegate meeting at Wakefield on the 2nd ultimo The subject of the establishing a penny bank under the auspices of this branch society again come up to be dealt with, and the members present were asked to intrust the matter in the hands of the president and secretary to get necessary information and rules from tne managers of the Government Saving's Bank in order that the enterprises may be conducted on right lines. The Secretary was requested to read a letter written by Mr. Thomas Simpson on gun license, in which he expressed himself as being dissatisfied with the present 8/ license on guns, and desiring to refer the matter to the general secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society if by any means he will be able to influence the Government to a reduction of the tax so as to encourage corn-growers. A discussion followed, in which the president pointed out that it was not the gun, but virtually the owner that was taxed. The Secretary was instructed to communicate the subject matter of the letttr to the General Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The President at this juncture of the meeting spoke of the damage done by the hurricane and the loss sustained in all parts of the Island and expressed his deep sympathy with all who have suffered in this way. He then took notes from those persons present, of their loss, and spoke of what he himself saw in the districts around, and this, he thought, would give him an estimate of the loss by the community. Beans, peas, and corn were all spoken of as lost also ; and the Secretary was requested to make inquiry in Kingston where good peas can be got for planting. The pronouncing of the Benediction brought the afternoon's proceedings to a close.—N. A. LIVINGSTONE, Secretary.

Glengoffe (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Grateful Hill schoolroom on the evening of the 5th December, 1912. The president was absent. He sent a letter of apology and Rev. Sherlock the vice-president presided The minutes were read and confirmed Correspondence were read between the Secretary and the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society re members not receiving JOURNALS, and Messrs. Brissett and Howel asked that the Secretary Jamaica Agricultural Society be asked to send their back numbers (6 for the former 2 for latter). A letter was read from Mr. Palache promising to fix a day for lecture on Loan Banks. It was thought that he had been promising for nearly 6 months that he be asked to fix a day early. It was suggested that Mr. Briscoe be asked to visit the district in the week ending 16th December, but he could not as his itinerary was already arranged. It was moved by Mr. Hanson and seconded by Rev. Sherlock that in writing to Mr. Palache the secretary send a message of sympathy to the people in the west end The vice-president invited the members to express their opinion on the recent hurricane. Mr. Howell thought a Loan Bank should be established here so as to help the planters. It was finally agreed to appoint a committee to enquire into the matter and collect information. Mr. Reid moved and it was seconded and carried that the Director Public Works be asked to erect a finger post at the Mt. Concord junction. Mr. Hanson, assistant Agricultural Instructor was invited to address his old friends on his new work. He did s in a very pleasant manner and wound up with some useful hints on coffee growing. Mr. Coote, in moving a vote of thanks gave some further hints on coffee culture as done in St. Ann. The meeting adjourned to the 9th prox.—THOMAS E. COOTE, Hon. Secretary.

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Gibraltar (St. Anns).—A meeting of the Gibraltar Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held on the 5th December, 1912, at which Mr. T. A. Campbell vice-president presided. There were thirty members present as a visitor. H. Q. Levy, Esq. Agricultural Instructor was present, having travelled all the way from Mandeville to attend the meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that Mr. J. B. Morrison be appointed Secretary of the branch in succession to Mr. I H. Edwards who left the district. Mr. Morrison replied in suitable terms and promised to discharge the duties faithfully, and to furthur on the cause as best he could. A petition re a street in Gibraltar to be taken over by the Parochial Board was drawn up and discussed, after which it was moved by Mr. Angus Brown and seconded by Mr. William McFarlane that the petition be signed and forwarded to the Board with a covering letter from the secretary. A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Codner the treasurer submitting the cocoanuts of the Society, which showed a balance of £1 15 6½. Mr. Levy our local Instructor then rose and addressed the meeting at length. He explained to the meeting the absence of Mr. Arnett the Supervising Instructor who was down for an address on co-operation in Ireland. He went on to speak of the recent storm giving his experience of the districts he visited. He pointed out that things were bad, and the out-look gloomy. Then is much disappointment to plantors. He noticed that there is, and will be, more loss to the coffee crop than was anticipated, as most of the stems were withering away. He advised what was to be done both to the cultivation and the berries that were blown off, emphasizing the fact that the blown-off berries which were not ripe, should on no account be mixed with the good herries, as that will ultimately ruin the market. He also spoke on the treatment of the bananas, dealing very minutely on the trimming up, suckering and re-planting, as he noticed some bad methods being put in practice ; and urged that all should tackled the situation and begin at once, and not to neglect this as some are doing, and then call for help. As one well versed in agriculture

with its pros and cons, having been himself a practical agriculturist, he gave advice on borrowing money to put into their cultivation, as there may be difficulty in paying back. He wound up a very helpful and appreciable address by pointing out that the storm will be a blessing to the bad cultivators whose cultivations were much over-crowded. A vote of thanks was moved for Mr. Levy by Mr. T. A. Campbell and seconded by Mr. J. B. Morrison who spoke of the untiring efforts of Mr. Levy, and the strides agriculture is making in the districts he supervises. After some minor matters were dealt with the meeting terminated with the National Anthem.—J. B. MORRISON, Secretary.

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Cambridge-Woodford (St. Andrew).—The monthly meeting was held on the 5th December, There were present, the president, the travelling instructor, the secretary, and twelve other members. Miss E. Brakenridge, a visitor, was present. The meeting was opened with prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Johnson's motions, of which he gave notice at last meeting, were severally discussed. Re the road from Cambridge by way of Bardowie to Norbrook, the instructor thought it was in a very fair condition, save at three places where the road is formed on rocks extending across the pathway, these are having ruts caused by water and friction. Mr. Johnson said it was just those places he meant to bring to the attention of the branch, and if need be, to the notice of the proper authority. It was arranged that Mr. Johnson should confer with Mr. Howell, the superintendent, on the matter, and should the danger complained of be not removed in due course, the secretary should approach the Public Works Department concerning it. After an explanation made by the president, of steps taken by him immediately after the late storm, Mr. Johnson obtained leave and withdrew his motion re the bridge at Maryland. His third motion was next dealt with, and carried unanimously. The secretary was requested to forward a copy of the motion to the Hon. E. A. H. Haggart, asking him to approach the Water Commissioners on behalf of the settlers. The show to be held in April of next year came in for a lengthy discussion. The opinion of the meeting was divided. The president and the instructor were of opinion that the show could be held, and therefore should be, as it would then act as an impetus on our people, also as a stimulus to the portion of the island so grievously stricken by the storm. Miss Dickens, in a neat speech, advised cautiousness, in order that the fame won by this branch be retained. The secretary had no objection to the holding of the show could he be satisfied that subscriptions would be raised to justify the attempt. The instructor guaranteed raising not less than five guineas ; when, on the suggestion of Mrs. Brakenridge, it was stated that should the amount collectad by the end of January be considered inadequate, a postponement could be arrived at. The secretary and others, who entertained doubts of success, consented. Miss Breakenridge offered a subscription of four shillings,—R. A. CLARE, Secretary.

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Castleton (St. Mary).—The usual monthly meeting was held here on the 4th December. There were present, the president, secretary, treasurer, and fourteen other members. After the calling of the roll, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter of apology was read from Mr. S. O Pickersgill, for his absence at the meeting. Read letter to parochial board of St. Mary re the scheduling of road No. 15 as a first class parochial road. Mr. C. Tait, through a portion of whose lands the said road passes, remarked that he would do his best to facilitete the board in effecting the scheme. The next was Mr. J. A. Minott's motion, re the payment of produce license fn moieties, as in the case of the spirit license law. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that a letter on the subject be drafted and forwarded to the representative of

this parish, asking him to use his influence at the next session of the Legislative Council to have the change granted. The treasurer was called upon to present his financial statement, notice of which was given at last meeting. The statement not being ready, the treasurer was asked to have same ready for the next special meeting, which will come off on the 11th December. A general discussion ensued as to the advisability of approaching the Government for loans for small settlers who may need same. Several members spoke in favour of the adoption of such a course, others against it : but it was finally decided to fall in with the suggestion of the neighbouring branches, to appoint delegates to draft and present a petition to His Excellency the Governor before next meeting. It was moved by Mr. D. Roy, seconded by the secretary, and carried, that grain (peas and corn) be applied for by the secretary, for distribution among members. The meeting then came to a close in the usual way.—JAMES HARDIE, Secretary.

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Retreat (St. Mary).—A special meeting was held in the school room here on Thursday the 5th December, 1912, when their were present, Messrs. E. M. Mais, president, I. C. Sharpe, vice-president, and treasurer Revd. Caleb Reynolds, and seventeen members, and the acting secretary. At the opening the president moved and it was agreed to that Mr. D. S. Lawrence who had been acting as secretary, be appointed perminently. A letter from Mr. Palache, was read by the president re the planting of corn, and instruction given that Mr. Palache's letter be replied to. The president intimated that Mr. Cradwick will be here on the 20th December, for a special meeting and members and those interested in agriculture should be present, posters were given to the secretary to be posted at different centres for its promulgation. The president read a letter from the Gayle branch re a meeting to be held there on the 11th December, to arrange for the formation of Loan Banks in these districts, and urged that all should try to attend. Seeds (cabbages and others) in the hands of the president were purchased by the members and visitors, the season being very favourable. The president informed the house that the meeting was convened for the purpose of speaking about the present condition caused by the recent hurricane. Though not so hard as our sister parishes, yet we are in our way damaged to a great extent, and if the Government does not assist us to over come our difficulties, we must suffer. He urged that we must be jealous in the movement of the formation of Loan Banks, for the restoration of cultivations. Mr. Sharpe the vice-president spoke on the damage he had seen throughout this and other districts, and read letter from the Albany branch with the copy of a petition to His Excellency, bearing on the subject. A clipping from the daily Gleaner was read re formation of Loan Banks in upper Clarendon. The Rev. Caleb Reynolds spoke in sympathy with albany's petition (in the same tenor of the president and vice-president) he pointed out the necessity of approaching the government for some assistance in order to help us to surmount the difficulties. The vice-president moved seconded by the Rev. Caleb Reynolds that a petition at once be drafted and posted without delay to His Excellency the Governor. The president appointed a special committee for the purpose which was done accordingly and same posted to His Excellency and a copy to the M. L. C. for the parish. This closed the business of the meeting. The National Anthem being sung, meeting rose until the 20th inst.—D. S. Lawrence, Secretary.

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Preston (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting of this branch was held in the Preston school room on the 6th December, 1912 and was opened with the reading of Scripture, and prayer. The president Mr. A. D. Goffe presided. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed and the secretary read correspondence. There was quite a representative gath-

ering and the spacious schoolroom was filled with members and visitors. Among those present were Messrs. W. Cradwick, L. A. Wates, Agricultural instructors, W. Morgan, J. Parodie, Mr. Lawton, vice-presidents, and the Rector Rev. Jno. H. H. Graham. Mr. C. Tucker's motion on "the forming of a Loan Bank in connection with this society" was discussed. Mr. Cradwick in a masterly manner very clearly outlined the scheme of the Loan Society to the satisfaction of the audience and intimated the holding of a public meeting at Port Maria on the 16th December. at 2 p.m., for the further development of the scheme. The Rector spoke very incouragingly on the subject and thought that the establishment of Loan Banks will be a boon to the people of Jamaica, as there is nothing like self help ; and asked the members to co-operate with the scheme. From abstract of the Governor's speech he is not prepared to grant loans on the same term as in 1903, but he is willing to help the people through loan societies formed by themselves. It is evident that the parish has suffered severely from drought during the course of the year, and that cultivations have been greatly affected, especially those near the seaboard. The drought was hardly over when a storm completed the residue of many of the already devasted plantations. Viewing the situation, applications were made to the governor for loans to assist the cultivators but these were refused on legal grounds. A special meeting of the Legislative Council to consider the granting of loans by the government through Loan Societies is called for the 17th December. The president explained the admirability of obtaining loans from loan banks rather than from other organization. The members quiried as to the value of a share and was informed that it will be one pound and the first payment is to be five shillings, and that the residue of the share money is to be paid monthly at the rate of one shilling per month. Mr. Berman McEachron's motion re-district constable was discussed, but the president showed that a constable would not be granted for the part of the district mentioned as there are at present two district constables within reasonable distance, but that Mr. R. Forsyth, an authorized person, can prosecute any extraordinary case of misdemeanour that may come under his notice. Mr. A. Andrew's motion re-amount necessary to cultivate an acre of banana came next and after a short discussion the president worked out correctly the amount that would be required and the subject was dispensed with. Mr. R. Forsyth's motion re improper working of road No. 4 and the unsatisfactory payment to labourers on same came on for discussion, and after the subject was argued a committee consisting of Messrs. W. Morgan. J. Clarke, B. McEachron, R. Bown and S. Cameron was appointed to enquire into the subject. The Rector showed much interest in the meeting, and his fine address on loan banks was very much appreciated. Moved by Rev. Jno. H. H. Graham and seconded by Mr. Lawton. That owing to the great distitution among the people resulting from the recent severe drought, relief work is required immediately to tide them over their difficulties. That parochial road No. 4 from Bremmer Hall, and passing through Oxford, Preston, Bonny Gate and Crescent and joins Main road at Dressikie be taken over as Main road to afford relief work ; also parochial road No. 21 from Trinity through Albion Mountain and joins Main road at Jacks River, and that a Suspension Bridge be built across the Bremmer Hall River which is very dangerous to life and property during the rainy seasons. The secretary was instructed to write the Hon. R. P. Simmonds on the subject and ask him to lay the matter before His Excellency the governor. Mr. Raymond Brown moved for discussion at next meeting the necessity of placing a spring in the upper part of the preston district under the water protection law. The Authorized persons appointed by this society were to give in a report of their work since appointed but they intimated that the constable who gave them their commission told them to wait for further information from the Inspector of Police before they can act.

Mr. E. Brown moved for discussion at next meeting, The unsatisfactory working of road No. 1 in the Oxford district. The Secretary reported that the committee on the road question met once and adjourned and the convener has not called a meeting since, but he hopes that they will be able to report at next meeting. Owing to the depressed condition of things resulting from the drought and the unsettled state of the weather the Social that was to come off during the past month is deferred to the end of the financial year. Mr. I. Amiel moved for discussion at next meeting the following. When a robbery is committed and the robber is caught, tried, convicted and sent to prison should not the government compensate the loser for his goods? The president moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cradwick for the very lucid way in which he outlined the scheme of the Loan Banks, this was carried unanimously. A second vote of thanks by the president was accorded, Mr. L. A. Wates, for his presence this was also carried unanimously and Mr. Wates replied suitably. There were fifty-seven members present and the following visitors gave in their names and were admitted as members. Samuel Brown, W. Hall, A. Clarke, Abram Lewis, Walter Robertson and Mrs. Rebecca Isaacs. The Doxology and Benediction brought to a close a very interesting meeting. J. W. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

(Authorized Persons can only make arrests of persons guilty of or strongly suspected to be guilty of Praedial Larceny.)—Ed.

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Above Rocks (St. Andrew).—On Tuesday the 10th December, the fifth meeting was held in the schoolroom at 6 p.m. Mr. Briscoe, the instructor for the district, was present, also Messrs. E. J. Gordon, the president, E. U. Pusey, vice-president, about forty men and three ladies. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A discussion arose out of the minutes about the acre of land offered by the president for a model plot. Mr. Briscoe and other speakers thought that a committee should be formed to manage the affairs of the plot, and the labour should be free, and that in course of time when the holding has served its purpose, there may be reolly no use for it to this branch, as the members would have been thoroughly educated on good agricultural lines. The secretary and a few others thought that we could walt for a show and then we may be able to pay labour with some of the profits, as free labour is a hard thing to command. Messrs. U. Pusey, A. J. Clarke, E. J. Gordon, Edwin Galloway and others argued firmly, some for free labour and some for hired labour. Mr. R. T. Rigg opposed the idea of waiting for a show. After a lengthy discussion it was put to the vote and finally decided that free labour, under a committee, with the instructor at its head. will be the proper thing. The secretary opened another discussion re hurricane loans, and read for the information of the branch a letter sent to the instructor immediately after the storm. Mr. Briscoe said that we were not so badly hit as some other places. He advised that as many as find it possible, to leave the loan alone. The president explained the object of the central committee for St. Catherine, and pointed out that at their request this branch held a special meeting and sent up a total loss of about 100 acres of bananas and other crops from the Above Rocks district, The central committee sent in a total loss altogether of about 350 acres to the Colonial Secretary, and asked for a loan from this government, appending as a rider that many whose fields are damaged will not accept a loan. Mr. Briscoe said that he was of the opinion that the prize holding competition will be postponed for this year, and that the secretary will return entrance fees. The paid up membership is ninety. The instructor complimented the branch on its increase. A vote of thanks was accorded the Instructor, to which he suitably replied. The meeting was then brought to a close.—F. DENNIS, Secretary.

Mocho and Brixton Hill (Clarendon).—A most profitable meeting was held in the Mocho schoolroom on the 10th December. Present: Mr J. Aug. Rhoden, president, in the chair, the two vice-presidents, the agri, cultural instructor. Rev. C. H. Baker, Mr. A. A. Green, the secretary-a large turnout of members, besides a number of visitors. The meeting having been called to order by the president, was opened with prayer, after which the minutes of last meeting were adopted. Arising out of the minutes, the matter of a water supply for the district came up again. Members were very pleased to have the presence of the Rev. C. H. Baker, whom they believed would be the person to give some true account in the matter. He spoke at some length fully, and in an earnest manner made suggestions as to what course the government might take in giving assistance to those who would try to help themselves in building and repairing tanks in their own yards, and in addition to that the government might also build a reserve tank in the district In case of severe drought such a tank will then be opened to supply their needs. The remarks of the rev. gentleman were listened to with rapt attention, after which Mr. Sutherland (vice-president) questioned the matter, so as to find out who was then responsible for the carrying out of the scheme. The answer given was, that the matter was at present in the hands of the parochial board. Next, Mr. Barnes' (vice-president) motion re the change to be made as to the time and day of meeting. Usually it was every second Tuesday in the month, but he would have it to be every second Friday at 1 or 2 *p.m.* This was *put to the vote, as Mr. Green would have it to* be on every second Tuesday. The majority linked with Mr. Green and won: after which it was decided to be bi-monthly, on overy second Tuesday in the month, at 3 p.m. The appointment of authorized persons The Rev. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Barnes, that the matter be given into the hands of the managing committee. Two names came up for the appointment, viz., George Thomas of Darlow district, and Moses Allison of Richmond Park district. Agricultural Loan Bank.—This very important matter was left over at previous meeting to get Mr. Palache to come over and have it started, but on finding that it could be dealt with by the instructor, and further to avoid expense, it was thought advisable then to let the instructor take the place of Mr. Palache and go ahead. The instructor explained fully the nature and plans, showing that such a project, if judiciously worked and carried out, will be of lasting benefit, especially to small settlers. He earnestly urged membert and all present to come forward and take shares at once, as it cannot fail to raise a district in its own self respect. Soon after this lengthy ane interesting address by the instructor, twenty one persons gave in their namet to become shareholders. It was then agreed that a meeting for the full starting of the bank be convened for Friday 20th December, when it is hoped that a fair start will be made. Roll Call.—Eight new members were admitted. Subscriptions paid in 8/3: nearly all of this amount paid in by the new members. No other business, meeting stood adjourned till second Tuesday in January, 1913.—S. AUG. FRANCIS, Secy.

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Tryall Hill (St. Mary).—On the 10th December, the regular monthly meeting was held. Vice-president McNichol occupied the chair. Thirteen members present. After the reading and confirming of minutes, the correspondence was dealt with. Agenda: (1) Matters arising out of the minutes and correspondence. (2) Motion on behalf of the poorer taxpayers by Mr. D. McNichol. Moved by Mr. J. W. Hird, seconded by Mr. E. Hird, that the secretary write, acknowledging letter from Colonial Secretary's Office, dated 3.12-12 expressing the pleasure it affords to the members of the society on the question of loans which His Excellency has had under consideration for the assistance of cultivators of the Tryall Hill district and other districts. Moved by the secretary, seconded by the president, that an enquiry be made from the parent society as to how

far the Government has gone in its consideration for loans to the suffering cultivators. Agreed to. Moved by the president, seconded by Mr. J. M. Hird, that the parochial members of the Annotto Bay district be informed by letters from this society of the extent to which Tryall and the surrounding districts have suffered during the recent storm, for their guidance, as they might not have had a detailed account of the recent sufferings which have caused the present straightened circumstances. Mr. McNichol moved that a copy of the said letter be also sent te the parochial board for its information, which he believe would be of some service. Moved by the secretary, that the instructor be communicated with, as he might be likely able to give helpful information under the present conditions, especially when he wss prevented from visiting this branch during the past month, owing to the swollen river as a result of the heavy rains. Moved by the secretary, seconded and agreed to, that a letter through the Colonial Secretary's Office expressing the gratefulness and confidence the members of the society have in hearing that separate provision is being borne in mind by His Excellency for relief work in the Tryall Hill district. Moved by Mr. D. McNichol, seconded by the secretary, that the following motion be brought to the Government's notice by the parent society, and that copies of the resolution be sent to branch societies for their co-operation. Resolution: That in spite of the failures and hardships met by the poorer taxpayers, and the unnecessary troubles thus created on the police generally, this branch respectfully asks that the parent society approaches the Government, with a view that provisions be made in the law to the effect that when any of the poorer taxpayers fail to raise money to pay their taxes, that work be given him or her on the public road to the amount due, on application being made to the parochial board through any of its officers as the board may deem fit, and that the amount for the said tax or taxes be paid to the Collector of Taxes through the parochial pay clerk on his or her behalf. After a very lengthy meeting, in which the members present took active part, nevertheless anxious to hear the final declaration of the Government, it was brought to a close by the National Anthem. ...A. A. CONSTABLE, Secretary.

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Duanvale (Trelawny).—This branch held its regular monthly meeting in the Duanvale school chapel on the 14th December. The president, vice-president and secretary being absent, the assistant secretary called the meeting to order by prayer at 1.30 p.m., after which Mr. Thos. James was elected chairman. He thanked the members for electing him to the post of honour, and called for the minutes of the previous meeting, which were read and confirmed. Arising out of the minutes, the instructor, Mr. Harrison, was called upon to speak on the proposed show which the Lower Trelawny societies had under contemplation. He enumerated the different steps taken in connection therewith, and said that owing to the devastation by the recent hurricane it is postponed for the present. The chairman suggested the appointment of authorized persons, as praedial larceny is on the increase in the district. This was, however, put off for further consideration. Mr. Thos. Fraser was to lead a discussion on "the successful growing of corn in the district," but he thought fit to postpone it to next meeting. At this stage, a correspondence from the general secretary re yams, was handed in, and answers were prepared to the questions submitted. Here the vice-president, Mr. E. J. Hawkes, M.P.B., came in, and Mr. James, in deference to him, vacated the chair. In taking the chair, Mr. Hawkes explained his reasons for being late, and asked to be excused. After a few well chosen remarks he introduced the subject of agricultural loan banks, and submitted a letter on the subject from the general secretary. Members got interested, and wanted to know about the working of these loan banks. The instauctor kindly gave the meeting what infor-

mation he had at his command, saying he knew just the "A B C" of it, but if the societies are wishful to start a loan bank, Mr. Palache will organize for them as soon as he is available. The instructor gave a graphic account of the state of things in St. James. He instructed the members how to treat their coffee trees and bananas just now, and not mope and pine over the destruction of their crops, but to make a fresh start and plant away, not neglecting such catch crops as corn, beans, sweet potatoes, &c. The roll call showed forty-four members present and many visitors. Three new members joined and paid their subscriptions. A very profitable meeting was brought to a close by the assistant secretary pronouncing the Benediction.—R. L. SMALL, Assistant Secretary.

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Spring Mount (St. James).—This branch had a lecture given by the travelling instructor, Mr. Edmund Harrison, on Wednesday 11th December, at the Spring Mount court room, at 2 p.m. Present: Mr. O. H. Chisholm, in the chair, and a goodly attendance of the members and visitors of the locality and the surrounding vicinity. The chairman, after calling the meeting to order, addressed the people congregated, and asked Mr. Harrison to give his lecture. Mr. Harrison, after addressing the chair, gave very good encouragement to the people, which was very useful at a time like the present. He further advised them to form themselves into parties, and go about the district and make shelters for the shelterless, and to go about in the same way and have the fields of all in the surroundings put in good order in quick time, rather than one man working so hard in his field. He also reminded the people of storms in past years, and the earthquake in 1907, and told them that like themselves, people in England and Scotland cannot reap their crops on account of heavy and continuous rains at the present. He reminded them of the days of prosperity and adversity, showing them that while they prospered they had all for themselves, and now that adversity comes, they want help. He further asked them to uphold the name given to West Indians, and if possible to get through their work without borrowing, and the result wonld be better. Mr. Harrison, in speaking of loans and loan banks, said it was the aim of the government to have established in every parish an agricultural loan bank. He gave full explanations as to how the agricultnrists could get loans to borrow, if a freeholder or a tenant. He explained that the tenants must be in good standing with their landlords, as they would have to recommend them. He also said that if the time given to repay the loans came, and the amounts could not be paid then, that the time could be lengthened. The fact is, everyone in the house understood fully what could be done by the loan bank, and how the money was to be paid if they became shareholders and borrowers. He also advised the people how to cut the fields, what suckers to be kept in the roots, and when and how to prune them. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Harrison, and the meeting came to its close. All the people gathered were pleased, and expressed their pleasure in coming to hear Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison promised to send a supply of peas to the branch, which came from the parent society.—EDWARD PERKINS, Secretary.

Castleton (St Mary).—A special meeting of the Mahoe Hill, Scott's Hall and Castleton Branch Agricultural Societies met here on December 11th, at 5 o'clock p.m. There were present the president, vice-president Mr. M. T. Dawkins, secretary, assistant secretary, and seven other members of this branch. The Mahoe Hill and Scotts Hall branches were represented by Messrs. Hanriques and G. O. Hanson, president and secretary, respectively. The meeting was called to order by the Rev. James Robertson, after which Mr. M. E. Henriques in a few brief remarks explained the object for which the meeting was convenced viz. for the purpose of approaching. His Exeellency the Governor with a petition which would be read to the meeting for their approval. He then asked Mr. Hanson to read the pitition, which was read and fully explained by that gentleman. The petition asked that owing to the serious loss of crops by the small settlers in these and other districts in consequence of prolonged drought and recent storm, that His Excellency be pleased to grant aid to the sufferers in the form of loans and relief works so as to enable them to resusitate their cultivations. Mr. Hanson also spoke lengthely on the advisabli y of co-operation between branch societies for the purpose of organizing loan banks. The Rev. James Robertson also spoke on the subject of loans. Mr. A. Pickersgill moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Henriques and Hanson, which was unanimously carried. Both gentleman briefly replied, and the meeting came to a close by singing the National Anthem —ALFRED PICKERSGILL, Assistant Secretary.

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Maldon (St. James).—Meeting held on Friday 20th December, the president in the chair, meeting was called to order at 1 30 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Members present : The president, cor. secretary, record secretary, and six other members. A letter from Mr. Barclay, the general secretary, was read. Another letter from the Spring Mount Branch was read. A social meeting in connection with the society was fixed for the 27th January, 1913 The Cor. Secretary brought up the subject, Agricultural Loan Bank. After some discussion, most of the members present decided to join. The subject, road and railway, which is more useful, was fixed for next meeting, leaders will be Messrs. S. C. Reid, and A. Robinson. It was decided that letters be sent to careless members, to get things in full swing for next meeting. After the singing of the National Anthem the meeting was adjourned for the third Friday in January.—S. C. REID, Secretary.

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Ham Walk (St. Catherine).—Our meeting was held on Tuesday, the 24th December, 1912 at one o'clock. In consequence of the inclement weather only ten members were able to attend. The time of the Instructor and president was usefully occupied in giving minute explanation on the Agricultural Loan Bank Law. The qualification required to enable one to secure a loan was particularly expounded by the instructor, and the president carefully shewed the derivable benefit of a shareholder A number of questions was asked by the members and replies given to satisfaction. It was agreed that Mr. C. Morrison undertake to send to Cedar Valley for a Ram and take care of the same during the time it remained in the service of the Ham Walk Branch. The discussion of the yam plant was left off for the next meeting, which will take place on the 28th January, 1913.—N BOXTER, Secretary.